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CONFIDENTIAL.

(7655.)

F.O.
424

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ASIATIC TURKEY.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 7332.]

200

1900.

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ERRATA.

Page 121, No. 145, line 1. For "4th October" read "12th October."
Page 140, No. 166, line 1. For "No 431" read "No. 421."

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Asiatic Turkey.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 7322.]

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 1, 1900.)

(No. 601. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 27, 1899.

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch No. 554 of the 30th November last I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Agreement between the Ottoman Minister of Commerce and Public Works and Dr. von Siemens, President of the Anatolian Railway Company, respecting the proposed extension of the latter's line from Konieh to Bagdad and Basrah.

In this document, which has been given to me in confidence, the German Company agrees to construct the extension within a maximum period of eight years on conditions to be determined by common accord between the contracting parties; and it undertakes to make the necessary investigations immediately, and to submit the draft Convention and "Cahier des Charges" to the Sublime Porte without delay. The question of guarantees is to be discussed with the other conditions on the completion of the preliminary investigation.

The Company engages never to cede or transfer its existing lines or the one in contemplation to any other Association. On the other hand, the Ottoman Government reserves a right to purchase the new line at any time. It engages, however, in case of purchase, either to work the line itself or through the Anatolian Company.

Failing agreement on the conditions or on the course of the railway, each of the contracting parties resumes its entire freedom of action.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Agreement dated December 11 (23), 1899.

ENTRE son Excellence Zihni Pacha, Ministre du Commerce et des Travaux Publics, agissant au nom du Gouvernement Impérial, d'une part, et M. le Dr. Georges von Siemens, Président du Conseil de l'Administration de la Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie, agissant au nom de la dite Société d'autre part. Il a été, en conformité de l'Iradé Impérial, émané à la suite d'une décision du Conseil des Ministres, soumise à la haute sanction souveraine, convenu et arrêté ce qui suit :—

La Société du Chemin de Fer d'Anatolie s'engage à construire dans un délai maximum de huit ans, et d'exploiter une ligne de chemin de fer à largeur normale de 1 metre 44 centim., partant de Konia et aboutissant par Bagdad et Basra, et ce aux conditions et garanties dont les modalités seront déterminées d'un commun accord entre la Sublime Porte et la Société.

La Sublime Porte reconnait qu'il est conforme aux intérêts publics d'accorder à la Société du Chemin de Fer d'Anatolie la Concession demandée.

Il est convenu que la Société fera procéder immédiatement aux études nécessaires et soumettra au plus tôt à l'approbation de la Sublime Porte les projets de Convention et du Cahier des Charges.

La question des garanties sera discutée après l'achèvement des études et sur la demande de la Société en même temps que les autres conditions.

Il est entendu que la Société s'engage, dès aujourd'hui, à ne jamais ni céder ni transférer à une autre Société quelconque soit la ligne existante de Haidar Pacha à Angora et à Konia, soit celle à construire de Konia à Bagdad et Basra. Le Gouvernement Impérial, de son côté, conserve également la faculté d'exercer, à quelque époque que cela soit, son droit de rachat sur la ligne de Konia à Basra. En cas de ce rachat, si le Gouvernement Impérial ne juge pas convenable d'exploiter par ses propres agents, il n'en cédera pas l'exploitation à l'autre Compagnie, mais il promet de le faire exploiter par la Société d'Anatolie par voie de bail.

En cas qu'une entente ne serait pas possible entre les parties contractantes tant sur les conditions de la Convention que sur le tracé de la ligne, elles reprendront toute leur liberté d'action sans qu'aucune d'elles puisse demander ou réclamer de l'autre la moindre indemnité sous quelque forme que ce soit.

La présente Convention a été, conformément à l'Iradé Impérial, dressée en double expédition et signée et échangée à Constantinople le 11 (23) Décembre, 1899 (20 Chaban, 1317).

No. 2.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 1, 1900.)

(No. 602. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 27, 1899.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch I think it will be of interest that I should briefly report the substance of a conversation which I had with Dr. von Siemens on the 23rd instant.

After informing me that he had just signed a preliminary Convention for the construction of the Konia-Bagdad-Basra Railway, which secured preferential rights to the Anatolian Railway Company, and recognized the principle of a kilometric guarantee, Dr. von Siemens said that the initiative in the matter was taken, as far as he was concerned, by the Sultan, who had asked him some time ago whether he was willing to construct the line. He was not very keen to undertake such a gigantic enterprise, but he knew the interest which his Sovereign took in the matter, and he promised to consider the proposal upon his arrival in Berlin.

When he had thought over the ways and means, and discussed the subject with his friends, he decided to enlist British capital in the undertaking. Before taking any steps, however, in this direction he went to the Berlin Foreign Office and asked whether there was any objection to British co-operation. He was informed that there was none whatever, and upon this he decided to make overtures to the Smyrna-Aidin Railway, with a view to combination. It would, he said, be a long story to tell the whole history of the negotiations that ensued, but although he had received every encouragement from three of the principal Directors or shareholders, the long and short of it was that when the general meeting of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway took place to discuss his proposals they were rejected and he was "mis à la porte."

Overtures were then made to him by the Cassaba Railway Company, and although he preferred to co-operate with the English than with the French, whom he considered unsatisfactory people to deal with in business matters, he had to do the best he could, and the offer made by the Cassaba Company being acceptable he closed with it. He did not, however, altogether despair of ultimately co-operating with the English Company, and a stipulation was made by which the Anatolian and the Cassaba Companies agreed to forego such proportionate share of their interest in the enterprise as would content the British market in case of an agreement either with the Smyrna-Aidin Company or British capitalists.

Upon my remarking that it seemed to me that the negotiations with the English Company would have resulted differently if the bondholders and shareholders had clearly understood that the proposal was one not of sale and purchase, but of financial and administrative co-operation upon fair and equal terms, Dr. von Siemens replied that this very possibly was so, but that there was no doubt that two of the principal holders in the railway certainly knew his objects and views, for they had discussed the subject thoroughly with him, and they had themselves written the letter which he had addressed to the Company.

He did not, however, despair of ultimately coming to an understanding with the Smyrna-Aidin Railway, and he hoped later on to reopen the negotiations with fair prospect of success.

In his opinion it would be far better to make the line as international as possible. He did not conceal from himself that sooner or later it would probably encounter very serious opposition from Russia. In any case the capital engaged, which he estimated roughly at 16,000,000*l.*, was a large sum and part of it could be found more easily in London than elsewhere. If the investors were satisfied with a Western rate of interest they would have no reason to complain, but if they looked to very large profits, such as they usually exacted when they placed their money in the near or Far East they would be disappointed. The population of the country was too sparse to afford large railway receipts for a long time to come, much of the merchandize was not remunerative cargo, and the condition of the country was far from satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 3.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 1, 1900.)

(No. 603. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 27, 1899.

IN continuation of my immediately preceding despatch I beg to report some further remarks made to me by Dr. von Siemens, which I feel sure he would wish me to treat as confidential.

Referring to the pressure which the Emperor had exercised in order to induce him to undertake the construction of the Bagdad Railway, he said that the really serious difficulty lay in the anticipated opposition of Russia, but this had been surmounted by the adriotness of his Sovereign. When the Emperor of Russia visited Potsdam the Emperor William spoke of his railway scheme, and finding that it did not meet with a very encouraging reception His Majesty explained that he was already engaged to carry it through, and that it was a matter which he had most deeply at heart. Yielding to the stronger influence the Emperor of Russia gave way and the matter was settled. This, said Dr. von Siemens, was the upshot of the Potsdam visit.

Your Lordship, no doubt, recollects the incidents of the acquisition of Kiao Chow and will remark the similarity between the Emperor of Germany's tactics upon that occasion and upon this.

As regards the Sultan, the leverage was very simple. His Majesty owned a great part of the Vilayets of Bagdad and Basra, acquired by purchase, by confiscation, or by so-called inheritance. He worked upon this, laying particular stress upon the personal advantage to His Majesty when the railway was built, and the great increase in the value of property. The effect was what he expected, and the Sultan is now looking forward to reap enormous financial profits out of the undertaking, forgetting that eight years is a long time in His Majesty's life.

Dr. von Siemens went on to make some interesting remarks on the finances of Russia. He had not had any transactions with the Russian Government since 1876 till a short time ago, and in the interval the French market had lent Russia some 240,000,000*l.*, or about 6 milliards of francs. It was a very profitable business for the French bankers, and he had lost a great deal of money by giving it up. He had undertaken a loan last year simply because he believed the French would have done so if he had refused. He was now not so sure of this, and he was not inclined to come in again at the eleventh hour.

Dr. von Siemens seemed anxious to know whether I was in favour of the Smyrna-Aidin Company and British capitalists co-operating with the Anatolian Company. I said that, personally, I was, and that I had reason to believe—what was of infinitely more importance—that your Lordship was not opposed to it, provided it was on the basis of co-operation on fair terms. There was, however, I said, a broader view of the question upon which the ultimate decision probably depended, and that was whether we wanted another route to India, and whether the Constantinople-Basra route was the best. To

this Dr. von Siemens replied that he believed it was, and that, in his opinion, it was better to stand on two legs than on one.

The attitude of the Russian Embassy with regard to the Concession is one of sullen inactivity, and Dr. von Siemens' story explains this. The Concession is certainly not calculated to improve the relations between the two countries, and in so far as it may conduce to make the German Government more tractable with other Powers, Her Majesty's Government has, I consider, no cause for displeasure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 4.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 1, 1900.)

(No. 606.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 27, 1899.

ON receipt of the inclosed despatch from Mr. Jones respecting the intention of the local authorities of Diarbekir to collect the military exemption tax, with arrears, from the Christian communities of that town, I brought the matter unofficially to the notice of the Grand Vizier, pointing out the misery which would be produced by the proposed course.

His Highness said that orders had been sent by the Porte to the provinces to levy the tax only in districts which had not suffered from the disturbances.

I learn that the Armenian Patriarch recently made representations on this subject direct to the Sultan, and that the above instructions were decided upon by the Council of Ministers, to whom His Majesty had referred the matter. It will be difficult to determine which districts under these instructions are entitled to exemption, and it is to be regretted that they leave so much to the discretion of the local authorities, which, I fear, will not always be wisely exercised.

I have informed Mr. Jones of my representations to the Grand Vizier, and of His Highness' reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Mr. Jones to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 40.)
Sir, *Diarbekir, December* 12, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to report that considerable agitation prevails amongst the native Christian population of this city in consequence of an announcement made by the authorities to the effect that the military commutation tax ("bedeli askeri"), with all arrears, is now to be demanded from them, and the Armenian Bishop has been told that, on this account, from his community alone the sum of 12,000 liras (£T. 12,000) will be required, a sum which, in view of the greatly impoverished condition of the Armenian community still suffering from the effects of the troubles, must be characterized as preposterous.

I have the honour to add that I am informed that the same exorbitant demands are being made upon the other Christian communities here, and the attempt to enforce payment cannot but result in the infliction of great misery upon the rayahs of this city.

I venture respectfully to submit that the consideration that this is almost certain to be the deplorable result of the forcible levying of these taxes will only render the measure the more acceptable to the Vali is shown beyond possibility of doubt by his Excellency's unbroken record of tyranny and oppression in the administration of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. JONES.

No. 5.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8, 1900.)

(No. 609.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 30, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 582 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, giving further particulars respecting the dismissal of the Defterdar of the Damascus Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 70.)
Sir, *Damascus, December* 18, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 70 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Defterdar is definitely dismissed, his successor, Muhi-ed-din Bey, Defterdar of Angora, being expected to arrive here shortly.

As regards the sum of £T. 15,000, the immediate payment of which, as I informed your Excellency in the despatch under reference, the ex-Defterdar declared his inability to make, it was required, not for Constantinople, but as the contribution of this vilaget towards the payment of a sum of £T. 30,000 which is due annually during a period of five years to the Damascus-Beirut Railway Company as indemnity for their abstention from commencing the construction of the projected line to Birejik on the Euphrates.

It would also appear that the ex-Defterdar had, a short time previously, been equally unable to comply with an order to send a sum of £T. 10,000 to Beirut, in part payment of a havalé for £T. 25,000 presented on behalf of the Ministry of Marine, and payable from the chest of the Beirut Vilayet. The whole sum not being procurable there, recourse was had to Damascus with the result reported.

I am informed that Mohammed Bey (the ex-Defterdar), gave as his reason for declining to make these two payments the existing financial straits of this vilayet, there being already, according to his calculations, a prospective deficit of £T. 50,000 on this next year's budget. Moreover, he pointed out that there would shortly be a heavy call on him for the supply of the expenses of the Haj, so that he did not consider that he was justified in depleting the treasury at this particular juncture. His language, it appears, was firm, his reply to several telegraphic orders being in each case a resolute refusal.

I believe there is no doubt that Mohammed Bey is an honest, straightforward official, and his behaviour on this occasion is applauded by all impartial persons who know the real facts of the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 6.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 10, 1900.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 606 of the 27th ultimo on the subject of the announcement made by the local authorities of Diarbekir that the military exemption tax with all arrears was to be demanded from the Christian communities of that place.

I approve your Excellency's action in bringing this matter unofficially to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 7.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 13.) *Constantinople, January 9, 1900.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 589 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, respecting the recent revolutionary raid from across the Persian frontier into the Abagha Plain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Major Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 49.) *Van, December 22, 1899.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 15th instant a band of Armenian revolutionists, numbering six persons, crossed the Persian frontier and entered the Abagha Plain, near the village of Kuchan.

They were met by Hamidieh Kurds of the Haideranli tribe, and after a sharp struggle were all killed; the Kurds also losing four men killed and six wounded.

In Abagha Plain there are no Armenian villages, but Kuchan contains a large number of Armenians, whom Kop Mehmet Bey has induced to settle there, and whom he personally protects.

No damage as regards life or property has been done to these men during the raid.

Regular troops, two companies of infantry, were moved up immediately from Bergri, and are now in Kuchan together with the Chief of Police of Van.

Four men left Van to join the revolutionaries, three of them having been but recently released from prison by the general amnesty of the Sultan, and who are among the worst characters of the town.

They took a guide from an Armenian monastery at Bergri, and apparently just managed to join the revolutionists before the struggle.

They were unarmed, were taken prisoners, and are now lodged in Van prison. Their intention was undoubtedly to guide the party into Van, their avowed destination.

Two days later another band of twenty-one revolutionaries crossed the frontier somewhat farther north, and according to the official report, which was given me to read, after a prolonged engagement they were all killed. This still wants confirmation, but is probably true, although some may subsequently be found to have escaped.

The most serious result of these raids was at Arjish, round which is a large Armenian population.

Directly the news of the raid spread, a considerable number of armed Kurds, mostly of the Kalkanli tribe, began to arrive in the neighbourhood, undoubtedly for the purpose of massacre and pillage when the opportunity offered.

The Armenians were much frightened, and some fled in here; but the situation was promptly saved by the action of the Vali, who sent the most stringent orders to the Kaimakam and Military Commandant of Arjish that the Kurds were to be dispersed at once, and if they did not go they were to be shot down.

This had the desired effect; they have gone, and confidence has been restored.

As the Vali told me with justifiable pride that at least his vilayet was not like that of Erzeroum, where recently in Alashgird they had such a deplorable massacre of innocent people after a raid there.

As the Vali has worked hard this year to secure the tranquillity of the country, and has gained the confidence of all classes of the population, I venture to submit that the present occasion is a suitable one for His Majesty the Sultan to show his appreciation by giving him some decoration.

I understand officials at Bitlis were decorated after the recent capture of the Armenian revolutionary, Sirop, there.

And the Mutessarif of Bashkala has been promoted Pasha for his share in quelling the attack by revolutionists on Shereef Bey this summer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL.

No. 8.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 11.) *Berlin, January 12, 1900.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Viscount Gough's despatch No. 301 of the 5th ultimo, and to previous correspondence upon the subject of the proposed railway from Konia to Bagdad and Bussorah, I have the honour to report that Major Schlagintweit, who is represented as being an authority on matters concerning Asia Minor, delivered an address at a recent meeting of the Berlin branch of the Colonial Society, in which he depicted the thinly populated and extremely rich Anatolian highlands as a most fruitful field for German agricultural enterprise and colonization. The speaker declared that the difficulties which German settlers would have to encounter would not be insurmountable, granted that certain concessions were made, by the Turkish Government and the land and tenements taxes abolished.

Dr. Georg von Siemens then rose and requested permission to make a few corrections. The Anatolian Railway, he said, is not German but Turkish; it is a Company subject to Turkish rule, although the Director is a native of Stettin, and there are some natives of Berlin on the board. The Bagdad Railway Concession is, he added, by no means assured; and all that has been obtained at present is a sort of pre-concession which authorizes the Society to prospect for the most suitable route and finally to approach the Government with a view to securing permission to construct the line, whilst it is very doubtful if such a line will be able to pay its way from the very start; but, he continued, it was the firm intention of those concerned to carry the project through. The speaker represented the prospects of colonization in a light most unfavourable to would-be settlers, and declared that they would have to contend with ceaseless mistrust on the part of the Turks.

Herr von Siemens is thoroughly competent to speak on this subject as he is closely connected with the financial group that has obtained the recent Concession, and has lately been raised to the nobility by the Emperor on account, it is generally thought, of the active part he took in securing financial support for the undertaking.

The "National Zietung" in publishing the above report, states that although Dr. von Siemens' words are discouraging to those who looked forward to a fresh field for German emigration in Anatolia, the enterprise promises much benefit to many branches of German trade, and work for numerous classes of German mechanics.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 9.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 20, 1900.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Basra telegraphs reporting the dismissal of the Vali, who has received orders to make over the administration to the Military Commandant, and report himself at Beirout.

Mr. Wratislaw surmises that the dismissal is the result of the machinations of the Nakib of Basra, the Sheikh of Koweit, and the Military Commandant himself.

No reason for the step is given officially.

No. 10.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 20.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 18, 1900.*

MAJOR VAUGHAN has returned from a visit to the Valley of Van, which he accompanied Hayreddin Bey, Commissioner of Kurdish tribes, and Ismail Bey, Governor of Bitlis.

Russian influence is rapidly increasing in the Nestorian districts. The Nestorian priest Keshishe Ilia, and the headman of the Nestorian Patriarch's family, have since the autumn been in receipt of Russian money.

I now send the following extract from a report received from Major Maunsell, on the same subject:—

"Shah Ismail, a Nestorian priest, came from Russia, where he had been to cross the frontier, to Van, where he had an interview with Hayreddin Bey, Governor of Bitlis, and Ismail Bey, Governor of Van. He told them that he had been sent by the Russian Government to Nestorians and Kurds to urge them to rebel against the Turkish Government, promising them Russian support.

"Major Maunsell reports that Mutessarif Bashir Shevki Bey, Governor of Van, has received instructions from the Porte to proceed to Bashkale, and to take with him a force sufficiently strong to overawe the Nestorians and Kurds, and to prevent them from crossing the Russian frontier. Major Maunsell expects that Bashir Shevki Bey will leave Van for Bashkale in a few days. He has received instructions from the Porte to establish a Turkish Consulate at Bashkale.

"Bashir Shevki Bey has been authorized to raise a force of irregulars, and to arm them with Martini rifles.

"Major Maunsell has received instructions from the Porte to accompany the Mutessarif to Bashkale, and to remain there with him for a few days, in order to show that the Mutessarif is not acting without the knowledge of the Turkish Government.

"Major Maunsell has received instructions from the Porte to accompany the Mutessarif to Bashkale, and to remain there with him for a few days, in order to show that the Mutessarif is not acting without the knowledge of the Turkish Government. The Mutessarif has been instructed to avoid, as much as possible, any collision with the Nestorians and Kurds, and to endeavour to induce them to return to their villages by peaceful means. He

[illegible] Mr. Consul Stevens, and was that I have informed Her Majesty's Government of the latter's arrival at Mecca. He has taken the matter up strongly again

Mr. Mutesarif resigned himself quite [illegible] dependent of the Vali, and is at present with him, whose last spring he was acting as Secretary of Vali of Van by self

On the 17th December I received a telegram from Mr. Browne stating that he was about to be [illegible] by some Nestorians of Tiari in the Moslem villages of Dilman and Urumiah as stated just now. I [illegible] to the matter directly [illegible]

It seems that the Nestorians of Tiari [illegible] principal Nestorian Chief [illegible] Mar Shimun, Head of the Church of the Nestorians, [illegible] Mar Shimun [illegible] Mar Shimun [illegible] Mar Shimun

No. 4

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 40. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 8, 1900

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, reporting the arrest and imprisonment on a baseless charge of treason of Archbishop Muggherditch, the head of the Anglo-Armenian Church at Aintab.

On first hearing by telegraph from Mr. Barnham of the Archbishop's arrest I made unofficial representations on his behalf to the Ministers of the Interior and Justice, and I am happy to be able to report that he has now been liberated on bail.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

No. 15.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 14.)

No. 51. Confidential.)

Constantinople, February 14, 1900

My Lord,

SINCE I had the honour to report to your Lordship by the last mail the arrest at Aintab of the Rev. Archbishop Muggherditch, Acting Head of the Anglo-Armenian Church, I have had numerous interviews with Rechid Bey, Minister of Justice, which were chiefly devoted to the discussion of the best means of bringing the Archbishop's case to a speedy conclusion. I have also had several interviews with the Grand Vizier, who has taken a personal interest in the matter, and who has been kind enough to keep me constantly informed of the progress of the inquiry.

Owing to the Grand Vizier's and Rechid Bey's assurances that the Archbishop would be released on bail as soon as the examination of witnesses for the defence had been completed, I refrained from pressing for his release on bail before the termination of the preliminary inquiry, which was concluded by the examination of the witnesses for the defence on the 10th instant.

On the 11th instant I addressed a note to Rechid Bey, requesting that the Archbishop might be released on bail, and I received a reply from him to the effect that the Archbishop's release on bail had been refused by the Council of Ministers, but that he would be released on the 15th instant, when the Council would again meet to consider the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

Inclosure 1 in No. 14*

Consul Barnham to Sir N. O'Conor

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Aleppo, January 22, 1900

With reference to my telegram No. 2 of the 21st instant reporting the arrest of Monsignor the Archbishop of the Anglo-American Church, Aintab, I have the honour to supply you with the following particulars of his arrest, &c., as follows:—

In 1896 the Archbishop presented Fuzzy with a target of solid silver only for the Turkish gendarmerie, estimated to be worth 60*l.* at the time.

On landing at Alexandretta, certain personal effects which were in his baggage were seized by the Custom-house officials, and detained for some time.

Various Turkish subjects have received from the Archbishop letters of introduction that these people could travel through the Turkish dominions without passports, as explained by a circular which was issued by the Government a few years ago, and complied with by the Archbishop, but these letters were not returned to him.

It is not clear whether the letters given to me were stamped or printed, but it is not signed by the Archbishop. I am sorry that I have not seen the letter which bears his signature. It seems, however, important that I should state that in the recollection of those who have had dealings with the Archbishop he has always been in the habit of signing his name in the manner shown on the letter given to me.

Bearing on the charge that the Archbishop's letter was written in cipher, whereas it was addressed to Monsignor, who, even if he could read its contents, would not be supposed by any person to understand cipher, the Archbishop states that he has been writing many years to Monsignor in the manner he has done.

I have been unceasing in claiming the recovery of these papers ever since the Archbishop returned to Constantinople, not only because my instructions forbade me to allow the Archbishop to retain the papers as they could compromise him, but also because I attached great importance to the matter.

I returned it to the Vali, who gave me his distinct promise that the papers should be restored, but as to the passport, without result. I met Mr. Fenwick, and later on the Dragoman, to the same purpose. I was informed that the papers had been sent to the Commissaire of Antioch to be handed over to the Archbishop, but the latter wrote to say that he could not find them. I then wrote privately to the Commissaire, who replied that they had been sent back to Aleppo, and on this occasion I heard that they had been sent to Constantinople.

About two weeks ago the Archbishop was informed that he had been suspected to have rendered himself obliged to depart or who pretended that he must (1) why he gone to the French Consulate, (2) which he responded with proper to England, (3) why he prompted Turkish subjects to ask British protection, and his answer was that he corresponded with people in England connected with the same communion, which he categorically denied. I am sorry to say that he had prompted Ottoman subjects to seek British protection.

I, Sir, have known the Archbishop for 30 years and have many others in England and in Syria have learnt to respect him for his blameless life. I have never known

No. 14*.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 45.)

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Constantinople, February 8, 1900

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About two weeks ago the Archbishop was informed that he had been suspected to have rendered himself obliged to depart or who pretended that he must (1) why he gone to the French Consulate, (2) which he responded with proper to England, (3) why he prompted Turkish subjects to ask British protection, and his answer was that he corresponded with people in England connected with the same communion, which he categorically denied. I am sorry to say that he had prompted Ottoman subjects to seek British protection.

I, Sir, have known the Archbishop for 30 years and have many others in England and in Syria have learnt to respect him for his blameless life. I have never known

him or his people apply to the Consulate for protection against the local authorities. He is a very old man, being past 80, and very feeble. His health failing steadily since he had a stroke of paralysis in England two years ago, and he is now, at the coldest time of the year lodged in Aartah Gaol.

On hearing of the Archbishop's arrest I at once applied to the Vali, who expressed regret that he could not intervene, as the matter was now in the hands of the Tribunals. I then telegraphed to your Excellency.

This morning I sent to the Public Prosecutor, who informed me that all papers relating to the case would arrive from Aintab to-morrow, when the matter would go before the Hevès-Dibleh Court of Accusations. This Court will either [illegible] the proceedings or bring to trial [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[

Inclosure in No. 17

Consul Longworth to Sir N. O'Conor.

Trebizond, February 1, 1900.

Sir,

I WOULD venture to review here, from official and private data alike, the general conduct of the Trebizond Vilayet in 1899.

The Report is intended to be the second of the new annual series, which, by that of the 17th February 1899, is linked to those preceding, the disturbances of 1895. Any suggestions already dealt with elsewhere shall be avoided so far as may be, however, wherever reference to the despatches contains brief comments or gives details.

The year 1899 marked a very appreciable improvement in the administrative system of the province.

There was less abuse of power committed, fewer cases of peculation, and the work was carried on with greater regularity. The authorities, so far as left to enforce the supervision of officers deployed on the work, did their duty in regard to brigandage with the result that this began perceptibly to recede, and at last to disappear almost entirely from the Gumush-khaneh and Baiburt districts, and to be reduced to a minimum in the Kerasund and Ordu districts, while in the Trebizond district it was kept down to the lowest point compatible with the existing state of the law and [illegible] the whole year.

[illegible] by several [illegible] there to [illegible] Many [illegible] were [illegible] Mussulman [illegible] Moslem [illegible] of [illegible] to the [illegible] goat to [illegible] Bashi [illegible] follows:—

[illegible] Oct., [illegible] shot by a Laz [illegible] Trebizond, and, [illegible] Vilayet [illegible] Trebizond [illegible] to the [illegible]

[illegible] lation, and [illegible] 1,500) [illegible] grade 6th class (corresponding [illegible] 12 Christians, [illegible] 2 [illegible] to [illegible] by the majority.

[illegible] with gallantry, [illegible] were granted by the Lieutenant-Governorship) and 7 were decorated [illegible] 1st class Medjidieh, 3 the 5th class, and 2 salvage medals).

Their services to the State will be best understood from the following figures:—

The robbers killed in 1899 are given as 1 in the Trebizond, 5 in the Samsoun, and 2 in the Rizeh districts, and those captured as 19 in the Trebizond, 11 in the Samsoun, 8 in the Lazen, and 3 in the Gumushkhaneh districts; while those who surrendered themselves with at compatible number, 5 in the Trebizond, 2 in the Samsoun, 2 in the Gumushkhaneh, and 1 in the Rizeh districts, making a total of 9, 41, and 10 respectively.

The military had for once little to do with the maintenance of public peace and order. Locally the troops were of some value, but physically their assistance was confined to patrolling the streets of garrison towns and detachments told off for escort duty.

The troops with the colours were the 1st and 3rd battalions of the 27th Regiment of the 7th brigade of the 3rd Hamidieh army (Nizam) corps, about 1,500 strong.

[illegible] Trebizond, [illegible] Samsoun, [illegible] Kerasund, [illegible] Ordu, [illegible] Gumushkhaneh, [illegible] Baiburt, [illegible] Lazen, [illegible] Rizeh, [illegible] Atchara, [illegible] Tchorouk, [illegible] Ardasa, [illegible] Terjan, [illegible] Kalkit, [illegible] Kelkit, [illegible] Shabin Karahissar, [illegible] Tchepni, [illegible] Kara Hissar, [illegible] Eskipazar, [illegible] Tchangri, [illegible] Ilgaz, [illegible] Kastamuni, [illegible] Tosia, [illegible] Amasia, [illegible] Tokat, [illegible] Niksar, [illegible] Zile, [illegible] Amasia, [illegible] Tchorum, [illegible] Osmanjik, [illegible] Sungurlu, [illegible] Yozgat, [illegible] Boghazlian, [illegible] Kaisarieh, [illegible] Develi, [illegible] Everek, [illegible] Bunarbashi, [illegible] Talas, [illegible] Kaisarieh, [illegible] Sivas, [illegible] Tchamlibel, [illegible] Divrik, [illegible] Hafik, [illegible] Zara, [illegible] Koyulhissar, [illegible] Suluklu, [illegible] Erkilet, [illegible] Kangal, [illegible] Gurun, [illegible] Malatia, [illegible] Arabkir, [illegible] Hekimhan, [illegible] Pertek, [illegible] Palu, [illegible] Arghana Maden, [illegible] Tchermuk, [illegible] Kharpout, [illegible] Mezreh, [illegible] Egin, [illegible] Diarbekir, [illegible] Ergani Maden, [illegible] Tchungush, [illegible] Lidjé, [illegible] Siverek, [illegible] Urfa, [illegible] Birejik, [illegible] Rakka, [illegible] Membij, [illegible] Aleppo, [illegible] Killis, [illegible] Aintab, [illegible] Marash, [illegible] Zeitun, [illegible] Albistan, [illegible] Adana, [illegible] Hadjin, [illegible] Tarsus, [illegible] Osmanieh, [illegible] Bailan, [illegible] Alexandretta, [illegible] Kessab, [illegible] Antioch, [illegible] Suedia, [illegible] Latakia, [illegible] Jisr-el-Shoghr, [illegible] Jebel Akrad, [illegible] Jebel Bereket, [illegible] Jebel Sim'an, [illegible] Aleppo, [illegible] Menbij, [illegible] Rakka, [illegible] Deir, [illegible] Meskeneh, [illegible] Hama, [illegible] Salamieh, [illegible] Homs, [illegible] Tripoli, [illegible] Akkar, [illegible] Hermel, [illegible] Baalbek, [illegible] Zahleh, [illegible] Kalaat-el-Hosn, [illegible] Damascus, [illegible] Hasbeya, [illegible] Rasheya, [illegible] Banias, [illegible] Kuneitra, [illegible] Deraa, [illegible] Ezraa, [illegible] Salkhad, [illegible] Shehba, [illegible] Suweida, [illegible] Kerak, [illegible] Tafileh, [illegible] Ma'an, [illegible] Akaba, [illegible] Jerusalem, [illegible] Jaffa, [illegible] Ramleh, [illegible] Gaza, [illegible] Beersheba, [illegible] Hebron, [illegible] Jericho, [illegible] Nablus, [illegible] Tulkarm, [illegible] Haifa, [illegible] Acre, [illegible] Safed, [illegible] Tiberias, [illegible] Beisan, [illegible] Jenin, [illegible] Nazareth, [illegible] Jaffa, [illegible] Ramleh, [illegible] Gaza, [illegible] Beersheba, [illegible] Hebron, [illegible] Jericho, [illegible] Nablus, [illegible] Tulkarm, [illegible] Haifa, [illegible] Acre, [illegible] Safed, [illegible] Tiberias, [illegible] Beisan, [illegible] Jenin, [illegible] Nazareth.

In other words, brigandage as a profession is extinct. Azaz and Osman were captured, Mehmed, Mahmoud and Mahmoud were killed, the latter losing his life in attempting to rescue his mistress, and, lastly, Ibrahim Bey and Kerasse Mahmed, the most redoubtable of all, absconded to Batoum.

There is no Extradition Treaty between the two countries, and there they were left unmolested with their depredations, but the Vali claimed them persistently and appropriately in accordance with the principle of reciprocity.

Pursued by the Russian police they surrendered to find themselves eventually, at the end of March, in Turkish gaols.

For the energy and zeal of Army Major Alexandrovitch, the Provincial Gendarmerie Commandant at Batoum, received prompt and [illegible] Medjidieh 3rd class Osmanieh.

Such distinctions could not be more worthily bestowed, for, while the extradition of the three malefactors assigned to police was unlikely to public security. The effect of their capture and summary deposition was most salutary. It had been known for [illegible] that [illegible] and that the [illegible] of law and [illegible] thoroughly [illegible] by the [illegible]

[illegible] by several [illegible] there to [illegible] Many [illegible] were [illegible] Mussulman [illegible] Moslem [illegible] of [illegible] to the [illegible] goat to [illegible] Bashi [illegible] follows:—

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November, the injunction was supplemented by an equally stringent command to stop the egress as well as the ingress of all Armenians.

The orders received here were evidently also sent to the inland provincial authorities. Batches, nevertheless, of these people arrived from the interior and from a road. Many of them were respectable merchants. A great number were poverty-stricken wretches. Forbidden to go on or to go back, they found themselves virtually in all the predicament of a blockade. About 150 are being fed at Government expense to prevent their starving to death.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

to arrest Margos and his party by being trampled upon by Russian subjects and to see that the guilty parties were properly punished.

I have &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 19.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury. (Received March 6.)

(No. 16.) Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 1, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 Secret of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, enclosing a report from Mr. Consul Graves, and to state that I have instructed Mr. Consul Graves to proceed to Van in order to make further inquiries into the matter.

I have &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Mr. Consul Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 7.)

Sir, *Van, February 17, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 13th instant, Hussein Pasha, Governor of Bitlis, arrived here on his way to Constantinople.

He has been summoned to the capital to give an account of his conduct in connection with the recent disturbances at Sassun.

He was received with the usual honours and visited the Konak, where he had a long interview with the Vali.

Subsequently, he paid a visit to the British Consulate, and, in the course of conversation, he informed me that he had been summoned to the capital by the Sultan, in order to explain the causes which led to the recent disturbances in his district.

For this purpose he had left Bitlis on the 8th instant, and had travelled from there to Van, a distance of 80 miles, in 24 hours.

Without going into minute details, which have been reported from time to time, I may briefly state that the disturbances at Sassun were caused by the refusal of the Armenians to pay the Kurdish tribes the tribute which they had been accustomed to receive from them for many years.

This refusal was followed by the withholding of the taxes due to the Government, and by the commission of various outrages by the Armenians against the Kurds.

The Armenians now complain that the Kurds have not been punished for the outrages they committed, but, on the contrary, that they have been allowed to retain the booty which they carried off from the Armenian villages.

Hussein Pasha, however, declares that he has received orders from the Sultan to punish severely all those who have been guilty of outrages during the late disturbances, irrespective of race or religion.

He has also been instructed to inquire into the causes which led to the recent massacres at Sassun, and to punish severely all those who were found guilty of having instigated or taken part in them.

Hussein Pasha has already arrested a number of Armenians, and has sent them under escort to Bitlis, where they will be tried by a Court-Martial.

With Hussein Pasha's arrival the Armenians have lost their principal supporter. Many of the villages that, hitherto, have been in a state of chronic revolt, are now submissive, and the Kurds, who were formerly subject to the Armenians, are now masters of the situation.

The Armenians now complain that Hussein Pasha has exceeded his powers in punishing Kurds for offences committed against Armenians, and that he has not punished the Kurds severely enough for the outrages committed by them.

Hussein Pasha, however, is strictly carrying out the instructions which he has received from the Sultan, and, in the above circumstances, I suggest that no further action be taken in the matter.

The presence of Hussein Pasha and of a large body of troops, fully armed and equipped for active service, in the province, has had a most salutary effect.

Hussein Pasha has succeeded in establishing order throughout the province, and, in the course of a few days, will have completed the work which he was sent here to perform.

He has received the thanks of the Sultan for the manner in which he has carried out his instructions, and has been promised a reward.

All the evidence that I have been able to collect goes to show that the Armenians, and not the Kurds, were the aggressors in the late disturbances.

Since Hussein Pasha's arrival, the Armenians have been disarmed, and the Kurds have been allowed to retain their arms.

I have &c.
(Signed) H. MAUNSELL.

No. 20.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury. (Received March 6.)

(No. 18. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 1, 1900.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 14 Confidential, of the 14th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Russian Ambassador had a prolonged audience with the Sultan, during which he urged the necessity of constructing railways in Northern Asia Minor. During the course of the discussion which followed, Mukhtar Pasha was instructed to explain to His Excellency that the Sultan could not grant the concession for the Mersina-Adana-Aleppo Railway to any foreign Company, as the Ottoman Government had already undertaken to construct that line with its own resources.

His Excellency then proceeded to point out that the Russian Government had, on various occasions, given proofs of their friendly disposition towards the Ottoman Government, and that they had, on more than one occasion, exercised pressure in favour of the Porte at the Court of St. Petersburg, which they would not have done had they been actuated by any feelings of hostility towards the Ottoman Empire.

He then went on to say that the Russian Government had always been opposed to the construction of railways in Asia Minor, as they considered that the export trade of the country should be directed towards the Black Sea ports, and not towards the Mediterranean, and that they had, therefore, refused to grant concessions for railways in Asia Minor which would have had the effect of diverting trade from the Black Sea ports.

The Russian Government had, however, now withdrawn their opposition to the construction of railways in Asia Minor, and had, in fact, given their consent to the construction of the Bagdad Railway, on the understanding that the Russian Government should be consulted as to the route to be followed by the line, and that the Russian Government should be allowed to participate in the profits of the undertaking.

His Excellency then proceeded to say that the Russian Government had also given their consent to the construction of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway, on the understanding that the Russian Government should be consulted as to the route to be followed by the line, and that the Russian Government should be allowed to participate in the profits of the undertaking.

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the people. In particular, I would draw Mr. Marshall's attention to the Ambassador should characterize his demands as unreasonable compensation for the Concession of the Bagdad Railway.

The Ottoman Government cannot, however, conceal from itself that Ambassador for the assistance which it has received from the and has not failed to point out to the Porte that the instructions which it has received from instructions which it has given to the Ottoman

I am assured by one of the Ministers whom I have consulted that the chief difficulty in the most cordial terms. Russia has pressed that the Ottoman Government should the Ottoman Government, Mr. Marshall will be aware that the Ottoman Government has always been opposed to the Russian claim to Port Said, and that the Ottoman Government would be glad to see the Russian Government withdraw its claim to Port Said. The Ottoman Government would also be glad to see the Russian Government withdraw its claim to Port Said. The Ottoman Government would also be glad to see the Russian Government withdraw its claim to Port Said.

I have, &c.
(Signed) [illegible]

No. 21.

Mr. [illegible] to Mr. [illegible]

(No. 5. Confidential.)
My Lord,

DUBLIN [illegible]

Mr. [illegible] has been [illegible] to the Ottoman Government [illegible] to the Ottoman Government [illegible] to the Ottoman Government

No. 23.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 83. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 12, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 29 of the 9th February 1899, I have the honour to transmit copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus showing that the process of Russianizing the Greek Orthodox schools of Syria is proceeding with rapidity under the auspices of the Russian Société de Palestine.

Mr. Richards states that of the 54 schools of Damascus and its vilayet except two have now been brought under the control of the Russian Consul-General, and he estimates from the light that my late colleague Servant at Palestine has also 100 schools containing 5,000 scholars are now practically administered by the above-mentioned Society, at a cost of from 8,000*l.* to 9,000*l.* a year.

I may refer to Mr. Consul-General Devey's despatch No. 1 of the 4th January 1899, wherein he reported that the Russian Archimandrite Antonin had informed him that the object of the Russian Society was to counteract Greek influence and to substitute Russian for Greek as the language of instruction in the schools.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 10. Confidential.)

Sir, *Damascus, February 10, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 17th January last, reporting on the anti-Greek action of Russian creatures in this province, I have to state that Excellency is aware that the two Greek Orthodox schools situated in the suburb of the Mediterranean Sea, the other for girls, containing 150 scholars and the other for girls, containing 100 scholars, have been handed over to the Russian Consul-General Pere. Antonin as being a future asset of the Greek quarter, which was entrusted early in 1898.

Such trouble and has been taken by the Russian Archimandrite in the interests of these schools, of the school of the boys' school, one of Latin Frugi, out of the funds of the Palestine Society, with the exception of the school building, which is paid by the Greek community.

Of all the Greek Orthodox schools here in Damascus, the only one school alone has manifested its adoption of Russian influence and that was not, to say, as a question of "good policy" that that establishment was not been annexed. It is only a matter of time that the other schools will experience similar fate of the Greek community, by the help of a permanent.

I am informed by an agent of the Société that the Russian Archimandrite has in the above-mentioned schools of Syria and Palestine, on an annual number of 5,000 pupils, which are now under Russian control. I think myself the Société de Palestine annually sum of 10,000*l.* spoken.

Personally I should be inclined to think that these figures are somewhat exaggerated, but the information is from a good and reliable source, and I am convinced that the Archimandrite has succeeded in bringing a large number of the Greek Orthodox schools under Russian influence.

In all the schools of the Archimandrite, except those which are under the control of the Archimandrite, the Russian language is taught to pupils, and the character of the Greek is taught to pupils of the Greek Orthodox schools, which is taught to pupils of the Greek Orthodox schools, which is taught to pupils of the Greek Orthodox schools, which

Jews, called Khoders, on the boundary of the Jaffa caza are only Jewish Colony now established in this district is the important one in the caza of Hadera, namely, Samarin or Ziel-ron-Jacob, and along its three small dependencies. It has hitherto been supported by Baron Edmund de Rothschild and administered by his French authorities. Its lands are set at 4,000 acres (15,000 carmans) mostly vineyards, and its population about 2,000 souls.

Samarin is now being transferred to a Society with an English title "The Jewish Colonization Association," formerly known here as I.C.A.

Samarin Tineras caza between Lattrun and Mount Tabor consisting of a village and about 14,000 acres of arable land was sold four years ago by an Ottoman subject named Attaway to M. Sursock, a representative of Baron Edmund de Rothschild. M. Sursock has lately sold or agreed to sell a portion of the same to the I.C.A. The other villages in Samarin have, I believe, about 100 acres, being sold to the Society's Messrs. Sursock and Co. are negotiating for the purchase of the whole. The transaction is not yet complete, but does not appear yet to be settled. The purchase price is stated to be [illegible] by natives of the locality. Jews are known to have [illegible] the Samarin property [illegible] Consul.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

No. 27

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury (*Received March 26*)

(No. 95.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 20, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 591 of the 21st December, 1899, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Dardanelles, reporting that the Greek Orthodox Patriarch has deposed the Bishops of Tarsus and Derekeui.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 27

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Smyrna, March 5, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 73 [illegible] I have the honour to report that the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan of Tarsus, having incurred the displeasure of the Ottoman Government, has been deposed by the Holy Synod, and the Bishop of Derekeui has been appointed to succeed him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS

No. 28.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury (*Received March 26*)

(No. 104. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 22, 1900.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 80, Confidential, of the 15th instant and previous correspondence, I have the honour to report that the Imperial Irade sanctioning the decision of the Council of Ministers with regard to the Russian demand for the control of railways in the north of Asia Minor was issued a few days ago.

The decision of the Council of Ministers appears to be as follows: The railways from Vezirhan to Angora (Eregli) and from Angora to Sivas and Diarbekir via Kaisareh and Kharput, which have been already granted to the Germans, are excepted. The Ottoman Government reserves to itself the right to construct railways in Asia Minor, and the words "par ses propres moyens" which the Russians insisted on retaining, have been granted; but it is stipulated that the Ottoman Government shall consult with the Russian Government before building any railways in those parts. If the Turkish Government does not build the railways, the Concession shall be granted to Russian capitalists on the same terms as the Concession of the Anatolian Railway to the Germans. It is not, however, apparently understood by the Ottoman Government that they themselves into an Ottoman Company, as it is understood by the Ottoman Government.

In other words, the whole coast of the Asiatic coast of the Black Sea as far as Eregli and the west of Asia Minor north of the line from Angora to Diarbekir falls within the exclusive sphere of Russian influence, and no railways can be built there by the Russian Government. No specific time has been fixed during which the railways are to be built, but the Russian Government has shown an anxiety to hasten such undertakings, on the contrary, they have assured the Ottoman Government that it will probably be two years before they are ready to [illegible] any of the railways in the north. They require Russian capital for making railways developing the country about their terminal points, and Germany has the country to herself, for foreign people to [illegible] present contract. In signing the clause

that the Turkish Government should construct the railway "par ses propres moyens," the Russians have been on very sure ground, for it is obvious that no foreign capitalists will subscribe to build a railway which is to be administered and controlled by the Turkish Government.

The Sultan has, it would appear, yielded to the Russian demands with extreme reluctance. His Majesty is no doubt aware of the effect it will have throughout the country, and especially upon his co-religionists who see the strongholds of Mahommedanism parting under the control of Russia, nor is His Majesty unaware of the role he is putting into the hands of the Young Turkish Revolutionary party. He fears, however, to lose the support of Russia, and I observe who were recently spoken of as some 40,000 or 60,000, are now said not to exceed 30,000 or 60,000.

Perhaps the most extraordinary part of the negotiations which have now resulted in the strong Russian protectorate in the north of Asia Minor is the fact that the Russian Government persisted in pressing upon the Sultan that compliance with their requests in connection with Turkey, at that time pressed in a sincerely friendly manner, would be to the great advantage of Turkey, as it would not fail to alienate from the German Government other powers, and would thus tend to interest a [illegible] in the Anglo-Egyptian Question.

As I learned confidentially from Ottoman Government that the Russian Ambassador to any foreign [illegible] on the subject, and that the Russian Government [illegible] the Germans also [illegible] to adopt a passive attitude, [illegible] Russians [illegible] not only was support [illegible] of the French Ambassador [illegible] that as long as Mr. Constantine's Ambassador [illegible] was not known what they intended to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

No. 29.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury. (*Received March 28.*)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 27, 1900.*

THE French press quote from the "Frankfurter Zeitung" a statement that the chief points of the Convention between Russia and Turkey with regard to the Asia Minor railways are as follows:—

A Russian Syndicate shall have the right of preference for the construction and working of all the railways ("lignes ferrées") within a certain zone, to be fixed as in the case of the Anatolian railways conceded to a German Syndicate.

This zone will include nearly all the coast-line of the Black Sea, viz. the Vilayet of Kastamouni up to Erekli on the west, the Vilayets of Trebizond and Erzeroum, as well as portions of the Vilayets of Sivas, Kharput, and Bitlis.

The southern railway will be a line drawn from Erekli to Van, passing through Angora and Sivas, thus not infringing on the rights acquired by the Anatolian Railway Concession, and especially the branch line from Adabazar to Erekli on the west.

It is considered of the greatest importance that, on the one hand, the sphere of Russian influence should extend to Erekli, which is 200 kilom. distant from Constantinople, and that the Russian Government should, on the other hand, have abandoned their original claim to the Concession in favour of a Russian Syndicate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 30

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 112. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 28, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 483, Confidential, of the 14th October, 1899, I have the honour to report that Mgr Ormanian, the Gregorian Armenian Patriarch, has again terrified his co-religionists at the Porte by the request to the Sultan to accept, under specified conditions, a loan intended to wipe out the debts that have accumulated during the last few years, and which now amount to about 1,500,000*l*. Mgr Ormanian has, I am informed, made this request in the hope that the Sultan would, in return for the loan, grant the Armenian Patriarchate the privileges which it enjoyed before the Russo-Turkish War of 1877.

As I have had occasion to report to your Lordship, the Armenian Patriarchate has been in the habit of receiving from the Sultan, at the beginning of each year, a present of 5,000*l*. in addition to the ordinary revenues of the Patriarchate. The Sultan has, however, for the last two years, refused to grant this present, and the Patriarchate has consequently been in financial difficulties.

Mgr Ormanian's request to the Sultan has caused much consternation among the Armenian community, as it is feared that the Sultan will avail himself of the opportunity to demand the withdrawal of the Armenian Patriarch's petition to the Powers, which has been presented to the Conference of Ambassadors, and which has caused the Sultan much annoyance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 31

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 113.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 28, 1900.*

I HAVE carefully abstained from alluding in my despatches to the question of the Armenian reforms, by which I mean the reforms which the Powers have undertaken to introduce by virtue of Article 61 of the Treaty of Berlin. The progress of this question will, it is stated, be watched with interest by the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin, and I have therefore thought it better to refrain from reporting on it unless I had something of importance to say.

The question is, however, now ripe for settlement, and I have the honour to report that the Ambassadors of the Powers have held several meetings during the last few days, and have come to a decision which will be presented to the Porte in a collective note. The Ambassadors have been instructed by their Governments to support the demands of the Armenian Patriarch, and the Porte will be informed that the Powers will not allow the question to be shelved any longer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 32.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 114. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 28, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 83, Confidential, of the 12th instant, respecting the spread of Russian influence in Orthodox schools of Syria, I have the honour to report that the action of the Russian Embassy, which, while professing to be protector of Orthodoxy in Turkey, has for some time past been undermining the influence of the Patriarch, and certain of the privileges of the Orthodox Church throughout the country, has at last stirred the Greek Patriarchate to action.

I learn from confidential sources that the Patriarch and some few of the more influential members of the Oecumenical Council have drawn up and submitted to the Czar, and to the Holy Synod of Russia, a long Memorandum, in which they set forth their grievances and are asking for a clear statement of the views and intentions of Russia.

This document first calls attention to the gradual encroachments by Russia on the monasteries of Mount Athos, and to the action of Russian agents, resulting in the complete estrangement of the powerful Greek Brotherhood which has existed there *de antiquo*.

The interference of the Russian Consulate-General and Embassy in the action of the Patriarch of Antioch, in which matter the legitimate influence of the Patriarchate of Constantinople was deliberately thwarted, is adverted to.

The Memorandum next goes on to refer to the progress of Russian Societies, which are presided over by Grand Dukes and the action of that Society which has resulted in some Russian Bishops having been placed in charge of the Patriarchate, thus adding to the already existing difficulties of the Holy Synod.

Lastly, the Memorandum refers to the appointment of Russian Bishops to Syrian Sees, and to the establishment of Russian Consulates in Syria, and to the fact that Greek subjects are thus induced to become Russian subjects, and to the support which the Embassy

multiples, et la suppression des mesures exceptionnelles créées exclusivement pour les Arméniens qui les exposent aux plus graves préjudices moraux et matériels.

Les nouvelles mesures prises en ce qui concerne le Catholicosat de Sis, qui dérogent aux canons visant la constitution même de l'Eglise Arménienne, et sont en opposition au *statu quo*, aggravent davantage ma situation.

Tous mes prédécesseurs ont su sauvegarder les droits du Patriarcat Arménien de Constantinople vis-à-vis du Catholicosat de Sis. La reconnaissance de ces mêmes droits et prérogatives spirituels consacrés *de antiquo* m'est pourtant refusée.

Sur le Siège Patriarcal que j'occupe, il m'est absolument impossible de considérer cet état de chose avec indifférence, et pour ne pas rester responsable vis-à-vis de Dieu et de Sa Majesté le Sultan, auxquels je dois compte de l'Eglise et de la nation Arménienne, je me sens forcé de m'adresser aux Ambassadeurs, et je vous prie de vouloir bien recevoir cette démarche.

Le 8 (21) Mars, 1900.

No. 33

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 115.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 28, 1900.*

I HAVE carefully abstained from alluding in my despatches to the question of the Armenian reforms by which I mean the reforms which the Powers have undertaken to introduce by virtue of Article 61 of the Treaty of Berlin. The progress of this question will, it is stated, be watched with interest by the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin, and I have therefore thought it better to refrain from reporting on it unless I had something of importance to say.

The question is, however, now ripe for settlement, and I have the honour to report that the Ambassadors of the Powers have held several meetings during the last few days, and have come to a decision which will be presented to the Porte in a collective note. The Ambassadors have been instructed by their Governments to support the demands of the Armenian Patriarch, and the Porte will be informed that the Powers will not allow the question to be shelved any longer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

n this capital is slowly but surely encroaching on the properties and privileges of the Greek Orthodox community throughout Macedonia.

The Memorandum, before being sent in, was submitted to the Bishop of Jerusalem, and received his approbation. It is clearly and strongly worded, and ends with an appeal to the Czar to the following effect: His Majesty has always been the champion of peace, he had taken the lead in the Peace Conference, and since he ascended the throne all his utterances have been in the interests of peace. He is the protector of the Orthodox Church in the East. The Patriarch asks if the policy now being pursued meets with His Majesty's approval. His Majesty should know that the acts of which complaint is made are disarming the conscience of the Orthodox community, which has hitherto looked to him as their protector.

The progress of the Orthodox Church has not arrested the power of the Patriarch weakened, and the eventual result will be to create scandal and disorders.

I learn that the Patriarch has not received a reply to his communication, a copy of which has been sent to the Russian Ambassador from St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 33

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 115. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 28, 1900.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 104 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report that the Russian Ambassador has not yet notified the Sublime Porte of his acceptance of the modified proposals approved by the Council of Ministers and sanctioned by the Sultan in regard to the Russian demands for railways through to construct railways in the north of Asia Minor.

Whatever hesitation will seem to come from the hesitation of the Russian Government to recognise any previous Concession to the Germans to extend their railway from Angora to Van, though willing to admit such Concession as far as Sivas or Diarbekir.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of the Imperial Rescript which is said to have been issued granting the Concession to the Russians, but I cannot vouch for its authenticity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

P.S.—Since writing the above I am told that the Russian Embassy say that the supposed Imperial Irade is apocryphal, and has been circulated with a view to prevent the Sultan yielding to the Russian demands.

N. R. O'C.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Imperial Rescript.

TENANT avant tout à assurer le bien-être de notre peuple et en témoignage de l'amitié avec laquelle et inaltérable qui nous unit à S. Majesté Impériale l'Empereur de Russie, qui maintes occasions nous a donné des preuves non équivoques de même nature, nous avons décidé de répondre à ses désirs en autant que cela nous est possible, et nous avons donné à nos Ministres et Conseillers de notre Empire ordre de conclure avec les Conseillers de Sa Majesté Impériale de Russie une convention pour accorder aux sujets Russes privilèges pour assurer l'exploitation des ressources minières et autres qui se trouvent dans les parages de la Mer Noire.

En outre nous avons par les présentes donné notre consentement à ce que certaines personnes possédant des connaissances techniques et expérience de la Russie, aient à présenter à Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale des propositions pour les Concessions à donner pour la construction d'embranchements de chemins de fer dans les bassins de la Mer Noire. Lesdites propositions seront soumises à nos Ministres et Conseillers, qui seront accordés qu'aux sujets Russes, aux mêmes conditions qu'est accordée à d'autres personnes la Concession pour la construction de la ligne ferrée de Bagdad.

Nous exprimons l'assurance qu'ainsi les capitaux et les connaissances techniques du pays voisin et ami seront mis au service de notre peuple bien-aimé et serviront à assurer le développement de notre pays. Nous ordonnons que le contenu de la présente soit dûment annoncé aux Représentants de Sa Majesté Impériale le Czar, qui, nous sommes sûrs, lui feront bon accueil.

No. 34

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 29, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 120 of the 3rd September, 1899, I have the honour to report that I have received a further letter from Messrs. Macnamara and Bond in which no progress has been made in the question of the indemnities claimed by British subjects for losses suffered during the Armenian massacres in Constantinople in 1896.

I do not see any way to press this question very strongly on the Turkish Government at present, and I consulted with the Doyen of the United States Minister, who, as I have agreed to act as far as possible in concert with him, received instructions from his Government to press energetically on the Porte the claims of American citizens. I hope that the Sultan will agree to the arrangement. So distasteful a question is for me to deal with that I have reason to fear that His Imperial Majesty's Government will not prevent Mr. Straus' return, in spite of the great respect, but I ought to say without the least success.

Copies of Messrs. Macnamara and Bond's letter to me of this day, and my reply, are inclosed herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Messrs. Macnamara and Bond to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Constantinople, March 26, 1900.*

WE, the undersigned Delegates of the British sufferers by pillage during the Constantinople massacres of 1896, pressed by some of our fellow-sufferers, who find themselves in very serious financial embarrassment, most respectfully beg to request that your Excellency be good enough to inform us what is the present position of these claims.

We have, &c.
(Signed) J. MACNAMARA.
RICH. BOND.

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Sir N. O'Conor to Messrs. Macnamara and Bond.

Gentlemen, *Constantinople, March 29, 1900.*

IN reply to your letter of the 26th instant, I beg to inform you that the question of the indemnities claimed by British subjects for losses incurred during the Armenian massacres in 1896 is one which is constantly before me, but I much regret to say that no progress has been made towards a settlement since I wrote to you in September, 1899.

I am, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No 35

Sir N O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury (Received April 11)

(No. 43 Commercial Confidential)

My Lord, *Constantinople April 5, 1900.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 93, Commercial, of the 28th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a letter relating to a project which is about to be put forward by a group of English capitalists for the construction of two lines of railway in Asia Minor, the one from Smyrna to Aidin, the other from Smyrna to the Black Sea by the valley of the Hermus and Pergamus.

I presume that the letter in question has come to hand, and that there is every disposition on the part of the Ottoman Government to meet with favour the wishes of the promoters of this scheme. I have spoken in the past in respect of railways in general, and the necessity of constructing them in the interests of the country, and the Ottoman Government are aware of the great importance which Her Majesty's Government attach to the construction of railways in Northern Asia Minor, in the territory lying between Kerasund and Bagdad.

As regards the particular railways in Asia Minor to which your despatch refers, the Minister of Public Works, in a letter dated the 2nd February, 1899, addressed to Consul-General Graves, stated that the Ottoman Government were willing to grant to Messrs. Hallewell & Co. [illegible] to Broussa, Magnesia, and Ak-Hissar, and that Messrs. Crowe & Co. have had the first refusal of the railway from Smyrna to Aidin. Should the Ottoman Government grant the [illegible] Mr. Hallewell-Stewart's group, it would be [illegible] to be [illegible]

[illegible] letter of the 2nd February that it would be considered unfriendly [illegible] Ottoman Government to grant to Messrs. Hallewell-Stewart & Co. the concession for the railway from Smyrna to the Black Sea by the valley of the Hermus and Pergamus, which was granted to Messrs. Crowe & Co. in 1893.

The Russian Ambassador has spoken to me on the subject of the railway from Merkez Canton to Angora, which, I presume, is the line to which your despatch refers. He has not, however, yet received any definite instructions from his Government on the subject, but he has promised to communicate with me as soon as he does receive them. I have, on my part, pointed out to the Russian Ambassador the great importance which Her Majesty's Government attach to the construction of railways in Northern Asia Minor, which are considered to be of vital importance to British trade and interests in Asia Minor, and I have also spoken to the Grand Vizier in the same sense. I have, however, taken care to point out that the Ottoman Government are not bound to grant concessions for railways to any particular group of capitalists, and that they are entirely free to choose between the various proposals which may be made to them.

I have also remarked to the Russian Ambassador that the Ottoman Government would be glad to receive from the Russian Government a statement of their views with regard to the railway from Merkez to Angora, and I have pointed out to his Excellency that, as the Ottoman Government have already granted a concession for a railway from Angora to Kirikkale, it would be desirable that the Russian Government should, at the same time, state whether they have any objection to the construction of the railway from Kirikkale to Kaisarieh, which is the point at which the railway from Angora to Kaisarieh will join the railway from Smyrna to Kasaba.

I have also remarked to the Russian Ambassador that the Ottoman Government would be glad to receive from the Russian Government a statement of their views with regard to the railway from Samsun to Sivas, which is the point at which the railway from Kerasund to Sivas will join the railway from Angora to Kaisarieh.

The Russian Ambassador has spoken to me, in a friendly manner, on the subject of Mr. Hallewell-Stewart's group, and has expressed the hope that Her Majesty's Government would not support the claims of this group to the exclusion of the Russian Government. I have, however, taken care to point out to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have no intention of supporting the claims of the Hallewell-Stewart group to the exclusion of the Russian Government, but that they are desirous of seeing the construction of railways in Asia Minor undertaken by the Russian Government, by the Hallewell-Stewart group, and by any other group which may be prepared to undertake the work on terms which are considered satisfactory by the Ottoman Government.

I have also pointed out to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to see the Russian Government undertake the railway from Merkez to Angora, and that, if they do undertake it, Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to support their claims to the concession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

No. 36

Sir N O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury (Received April 10)

(No. 120.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 7, 1900.*

With reference to my despatch No. 43 Secret of the 5th instant, I have the honour to state that Lord [illegible] this morning, which he received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum [illegible]

the country caused by the projected construction of a Russian railway from Kars to Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

Inclosure in No. 36

Major Maunsell to Sir N O'Conor

(No. 10)

Sir, *Erzeroum, March 17, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that [illegible] Russian [illegible] that His Majesty's Government [illegible] to Erzeroum [illegible]

[illegible] Turkish [illegible] Russian [illegible] Russian [illegible] Erzeroum [illegible] Russian [illegible] Russian [illegible] Erzeroum [illegible] Russian [illegible] Erzeroum [illegible] Russian [illegible] Erzeroum

There is very little difference in this information from that previously supplied to your Lordship, except that the Minister states positively that they have reserved the right of giving a Concession to Van to any foreign Company other than Russian. I cannot say whether the Russians are able or exist as to construct railways at present, or for several years, within the sphere allotted to them by the unfortunate Agreement, but this does not necessarily exclude their seeking foreign capital for the purpose. It decidedly excludes, however, any competition and confirms the observations which I had the honour to make in my despatch No. 44 Commercial, of the 7th instant, referring to Messrs. Carter's intention of seeking a concession for a railway from Samsoun to Siwas, unless later agreement with the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 38.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 31. Commercial.) Constantinople, April 12, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch No. 4 Commercial, of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have had a further interview with Monsieur Rechtzer, who showed me the progress which the Russian Railway Company are making with the progress now in hand on the line connecting the coast town of Tuapse on the Black Sea across Asia Minor to the south.

Monsieur Rechtzer, who has been arranging matters with the Russian Government, has been at Constantinople, but with the Russian Embassy, not Monsieur Murat, has gone to Constantinople has good hopes of being able to settle the Salt question to the satisfaction of the Company. The project of Monsieur Rechtzer for a railway from the Syrian coast to Bagdad, and not that of Monsieur Pastaremadjian, Sultan's Botanist, was also largely discussed. The principal point to settle is the commencement of the line, whether at Alexandretta, Northern Asia Minor, and this is objected to by Russia may communicate with the Mediterranean from Turkey would not be satisfactory conditions as to the control and working of the line.

I learn that Monsieur Rechtzer has not mentioned the question of obtaining likewise the concession for the irrigation of Mesopotamia which forms the subject of my despatch No. 7 Commercial of the 21st December 1899, and I am not sure that I should not do well to refrain from bringing the matter forward at present.

These matters are of great interest to this country in which British interests are largely involved, and might be greatly watched. It would be most important to all Monsieur Rechtzer encouraged to undertake the Samsoun to Siwas Railway, if only to form a Company under Russian auspices for the exploration and development of the Lower Tigris and Euphrates Valleys and the Koweit district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 39.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 112. Confidential.) Constantinople, April 18, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Grand Dragoman has received a reply from Monsieur Zinoview to the despatch from the Porte which I have sent to Monsieur Nelidow, which is reported in my despatch No. [illegible] of the 16th instant, and which, I believe, I forwarded to your Lordship. Russia [illegible] plan of reform [illegible] Macedonia and Old Servia [illegible] Patriarch and [illegible] Bulgarian Exarch [illegible] Patriarch.

I understand that the Patriarch is much disappointed by this communication, which is not of a nature to allay his anxiety. It states somewhat ambiguously that the Emperor regrets "que ces circonstances et celles entravent la marche des affaires ont cessé quoi," and, with regard to the Patriarch's complaints to the action of the Russian Palestine Society in Syria, asserts that that country is outside the Ecumenical Patriarchate's sphere of influence.

The Patriarch is uncertain whether to regard this as the reply of the Emperor or the Holy Synod, and is waiting to see whether any further communication will be sent to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 40.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 57. Commercial.) Constantinople, April 19, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE received from Messrs. Edwin Pears, Sir William Whittall, Messrs. Gallis and Albert Somers, who stated that they represented a large body of the English shareholders and bondholders of the Mersina-Adana Railway Company, the following memorial, which I have the honour to forward herewith, on behalf of the Company and of the other interests.

The railway question was dealt with in a very full and exhaustive manner by the English share-holders' meeting, although the concession is primarily a French Society. A copy of the report of that meeting is forwarded herewith, and I shall be glad to receive instructions from your Lordship as to the steps which I am to take in connection with the matter. The prospect of receiving a guarantee from the Ottoman Government, and the chance of the speculation proving profitable, appear to be small. No opportunity was lost of pressing on the Ottoman Government the necessity of assisting the Company, in view of the heavy losses which the Company have incurred, and the various pledges which have been given to the English shareholders that their interests would be looked after by the Ottoman Government, but it is also of importance to the trade of this country that the railway to Angora and the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Pears recalled to me the steps he had taken to get further explanations. I then recalled to him that I had brought the subject to the notice of my colleagues eight months ago, and that he had then given me to understand that as more French capital in the enterprise, the French Embassy were attending to the matter. I pointed out to him that what he was now asking me to do was all the more than that I should use my influence to collect the proposed loan, and I pointed out to him that I should use my influence to collect the proposed loan, and I pointed out to him that I should use my influence to collect the proposed loan, and I pointed out to him

to his Government my language on the previous occasion, and I had spoken to him on the subject, and had explained to them my views as to a arrangement between the German and English interests concerned

I have, &c
(Signed) N R O'CONOR

Inclosure in No. 40.

Messrs Lewis Hull & Co. to Sir N O'Conor

Sir [illegible]

[illegible] Adam Pasha [illegible]

[illegible] Anglo Ottoman Company [illegible]

[illegible] Ismid [illegible]

[illegible] Ismid [illegible]

[illegible] Ismid

No. 42

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. O'Connor.

(No. 5)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 1, 1890.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 42 Confidential of the 19th ultimo reporting your conversation with M. [illegible] Ambassador of the subject of [illegible]

I approve the attitude which your Excellency [illegible]

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 43

Sir A. O'Connor (Therapia) to the Marquess of Salisbury. (Received April 10.)

(No. 111)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 5, 1890.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 Confidential of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report that I have had an interview with the Grand Vizier, in which I spoke to his Highness in the sense of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 3 Confidential of the 1st instant.

Kiamil Pasha replied that he was grateful for the friendly spirit which prompted the communication, and that he would take it into his most serious consideration. He would, however, point out that the Porte had already done all that was possible to meet the wishes of the Powers, and that the Ambassadors themselves had admitted that the Porte could not be expected to go further. The Grand Vizier added that he would consult his colleagues in the Council of Ministers, and would then inform me of the result.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. A. RICHARDS.

No. 44

Sir A. O'Connor to the Marquess of Salisbury. (Received April 10.)

(No. 112. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 5, 1890.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, acting on instructions received from his Government, has communicated to the Grand Vizier a despatch from Prince Lobanoff, dated March 22, in which the Russian Government declare that they cannot consent to the proposed Arbitration Convention between Turkey and Bulgaria.

M. Nelidoff is reported to have stated that Russia could not consent to the establishment of a precedent which might be used by other States, and that the Russian Government could not admit the principle of Arbitration in a question which affected the sovereign rights of the Sultan.

M. Nelidoff is also reported to have stated that Russia would not consent to the Arbitration Convention, because it would be contrary to the Treaty of Berlin, which could only be modified by the consent of all the Powers who were parties to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. O'CONOR.

The United States Government [illegible] Sultan's Government [illegible] Sultan [illegible] Mr. Gummeré [illegible] at Tangier [illegible] support [illegible] Government [illegible] Sultan [illegible] Government [illegible] Mr. Gummeré [illegible] Government [illegible] Mr. Gummeré [illegible] Government [illegible] Mr. Gummeré

The Italian Ambassador also tells me that Count Mouravieff subsequently gave him the same answer and that he had noted that his Excellency seemed somewhat reluctant to commit his Government to any engagement involving further pressure on the Sultan than was exercised in the collective note.

When I saw Count Mouravieff two days later, he had recently received intelligence from Constantinople indicating the Sultan's intention to yield on the point of principle raised by the Powers in this question.

Speaking of the tension between the Governments of Washington and Constantinople in consequence of the Sultan's reluctance to settle the American money claims for the massacre of their missionaries, he said that it was unfortunate that Mr. Hay was pressing the immediate settlement of this claim as peremptory terms. He supposed it was for electioneering reasons. The Sultan's reluctance he added, was evidently owing to conviction that other Powers who had such large claims for similar atrocities would also press for immediate settlement; and that as Russia had no missionaries in Turkey she could make no claims which he desired to press for remuneration at present.

My French colleague was good enough to show me the reports which he had just received from his Government on the latest phase of the American claim, and his attention was expressed to the possibility of the United States making common cause with the Mediterranean Powers. The Marquis of Montebello had, however, received no instructions to do any such action here on this question.

He said that Mr. Hay's recently expressed intention to leave Washington and assume the duties of his Excellency's Embassy at Madrid had caused much surprise at the Quai d'Orsay, and that he thought Count Mouravieff would be glad to see the last of Mr. Hay at Washington and Count Adelbert Gravenreuth at Madrid, as they were both considered to be very unfriendly to Russia.

Count Mouravieff had also mentioned to him that Russia had no intention to press any similar claim on the Sultan at this moment, and he thought that the Russian Government would not think it desirable to connect the question of any such claim with that of the customs duties.

The Marquis de Montebello also remarked to me that the United States Ambassador at Washington had said that a rough sketch or sketch of a treaty had been interchanged as possible in the case of persistent refusal on the part of the Sublime Porte. Mr. Hay had, however, assured him that no steps were at present in contemplation or demand of the kind, or menace against Turkey of any such threats.

Yesterday Count Mouravieff told me that he had every reason to believe that the difficulty would soon be settled.

I have, &c.

Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18

Sir C. Scott to Count Mouravieff

My dear Count Mouravieff, *British Embassy, April 19, 1900.*

AS to-morrow is Good Friday and I shall probably be unable to call upon you at 12 o'clock, I write these few lines to say that I am glad to hear which I wished to see you was the apparent persistence of the Porte in their attitude respecting the case of the missionaries (at least 14th May).

Our Ambassadors at Constantinople report the opinion expressed at the meeting of the Ambassadors which replied to the last note of the Porte that the Ottoman Government is now setting up its attitude under the impression that the Powers will not come to any common agreement, and that it will be advisable to make some representations to the Porte. You will have seen by the despatches which her Majesty's Government have sent to Constantinople that they do not think that the matter of the indemnity is a proper subject for [illegible] Powers.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

to a good many important articles of British trade and those of foreign countries will lose the force of the Ottoman Government is allowed to levy these duties without the previous consent of the Powers.

Can you let me have the view of your Government on this point, so that I can reply by telegraph to Lord Salisbury?

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Count Mouravieff to Sir C. Scott

MY DEAR AMBASSADOR, *St. Petersburg, April 20, 1900.*

IN reponse à votre lettre que j'ai reçue hier matin adressée à mon adjoint, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que je ne partage pas votre manière de voir. Il me semble, en effet, que la déclaration manifestement partie de Sublime Porte elle-même, le 11 Mai (vieux style), a été faite en réponse à la note collective des Ambassadeurs en date du 2 Mai (vieux style), et non pas à la note séparée de l'Ambassade des États-Unis en date du 4 Mai (vieux style). Cette déclaration ne peut donc être considérée comme ayant mis fin à la question des indemnités, et il me paraît indispensable que les Ambassadeurs reçoivent de nouvelles instructions à ce sujet.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signed) COUNT MOURAVIEFF.

No. 19.

Sir C. Scott to Marquis of Salisbury—(Received May [illegible])

No. 1. Confidential.

My Lord, *St. Petersburg, May 5, 1900.*

M. ZINOVIEFF (the Russian Assistant Foreign Minister) was so kind as to call upon me this afternoon at my request.

In the course of conversation I learnt from him, that he regarded the resolution arrived at by the Sublime Porte and the United States' Government for the immediate payment of the indemnity for the massacre of American missionaries as unfortunate, for although the sum was not a very large one for the Ottoman Government to pay lump, the Sultan could not at present find money to satisfy the much larger claims which other Powers would press for renewal at similar determinations.

He seemed to appreciate the pleasantness of the Ambassadors at Constantinople having entertained of pressing the claims for compensation against new customs duties, which he thought presented no very serious difficulty, and said that Russia had certainly a claim though not a very large one to make, but that it was not desired to press for its immediate settlement.

M. Zinovieff said that the present tension between Washington and Constantinople must not be allowed to assume a dangerous character.

My Austrian colleague, who also received a visit from M. Zinovieff, tells me that he understands that his Excellency's tenure of the Embassy at Constantinople had lately been rather insecure owing to hostile influences at the Russian Foreign Office, and to the desire in certain quarters at St. Petersburg to give this post to M. Mouravieff, the present Minister of Justice, who had himself suggested [illegible] to M. Witte as the selection of the tendency, and influential person, might be [illegible] and [illegible] funds.

The success of M. Zinovieff's mission to Paris with the Prince of Wales's condolences appears to have, however, [illegible] and to have [illegible] the result of M. Mouravieff's [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] quarters.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

ment was the admission of the Sultan that the Black Sea was exclusively a Russian and Turkish Sea, and that no new naval concessions should be given in districts adjoining its own territories under Turkish sovereignty or suzerainty to any other foreign Governments or Companies than Russian.

Under this Agreement, Baron d'Achrental went on to say Russia might easily acquire an exclusive right to construct a railway through Bulgaria direct to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT

No. [illegible]

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May [illegible])

(No. [illegible])
My Lord, [illegible]

I HAVE [illegible] who [illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

Inclosure in No. [illegible]

Sir [illegible] to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. [illegible])
Sir, [illegible]

No. 51.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 19, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 142 of the 22nd March last year, I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship the copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, reporting on the present state of the Armenian orphan works at Hadjin, and containing much good political effect produced by them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Mr. [illegible] to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 16.)
Sir, [illegible] 1900.

I HAVE [illegible]

---

report on the present state of these works, as well as on the good resulting to Hadjin and neighbourhood from their institution.

I would desire, first, to observe that the position of Hadjin, removed some five or six days' journey from the coast and situated in the midst of the wild Taurus Mountains, with an almost entirely Christian population of some 25,000 to 15,000 souls, rendered this town a mark for the fanaticism and hate of the Turks during the troubles of four years ago. Had not been for the Rev. J. C. Martin's presence and for my frequent journeys to the district, there can be but little doubt that a massacre on a large scale would have occurred. In spite of all our efforts, even, the whole Christian population was reduced to beggary and without any means of gaining a livelihood. The problem was a serious one which confronted me on my arrival, four years ago.

Relief funds were already low, the Lord Mayor's appeal having realized into [illegible] and I received orders [illegible]. We now had, since 1,500 to distribute to some 10,000 people, directions to commence [illegible] these orphan works, which would employ all the [illegible] and give work to different [illegible] of the population. Mr. Martin with his usual tact &c., was able to [illegible] apart from [illegible] guarantee from the Government that they should not [illegible] the [illegible] otherwise the whole work of the [illegible] and during the disturbance.

[illegible] were responsible for the stock [illegible], and, as soon as [illegible] collect a sufficient [illegible] to [illegible] the same should be [illegible] to stand, other [illegible] to be erected [illegible]

[illegible] operations were started [illegible] small [illegible] carpenter's shop, a [illegible] the present time [illegible] Within [illegible] the very [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] works. Other [illegible] trade, after [illegible] their own [illegible] at present, [illegible] the peasants.

We [illegible] wool [illegible] and [illegible] cotton [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

remunerative trades, we still employ daily some 200 people, which means some 200 families honestly gaining a livelihood, rescuing all we have employed from a degrading state of pauperism.

All the workpeople now employed we have ourselves trained, except two professional weavers and one dyer. All the original instructors have been discharged, sufficient skill having been developed to carry on the various departments.

The following quotation from a report just received from Hadjin speaks for itself:

"One can safely affirm that we conduct on at least 50 per cent better lines than relief works were started. The change, of course, not all gain at once to counteract, but a large part of it is. I reckon that the industries give out not less than 600 francs per annum, chiefly in wages, 200 francs of daily expenditure on provisions for fatherless and motherless children here. Deducting institutions together, orphanages and nurseries, there remain at Hadjin, I should state this, 1,000 persons who are expected to maintain by the industries themselves, and our annual expenses.

With this I conclude begging your Excellency's indulgence for having reported to you so much of my efforts as I considered of interest.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. H. H. MASSY,

Acting Consul-General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 51.

Major Massy to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 14.)

Aintab, April 19, 1900.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 10 of this date on the subject of Hadjin, I have the honour to report that there is one remaining point to which I wish to draw your Excellency's attention.

You will recollect that it was found necessary to obtain the support of the Protestant Missionary Societies in order to secure the co-operation of the Turkish Government. Their views, from motives of humanity, have been in favour of a settlement with the Turkish Government. In order to be able to inform your Excellency that all such questions have been made to arrange locally, without having recourse to higher authority, I have to thank Mr. Moreover, for the establishment of these institutions, and for our hitherto, by offers of all kinds from the Wali of Adana, dissuading this course, and the growth of a friendly Government spirit among all of officials we have managed to Turkey on the same lines as yours, and with the same results this Government can have but one feeling towards him, and that one of gratitude.

I have carefully observed the effect of our work, and I can state that, politically, it has been a special good for the prosperity of this Government, and its intentions regarding the Armenians are purely philanthropic, with no ulterior motive behind them.

I have, &c.

(signed) F. H. H. MASSY,

H.M. Acting Consul-General.

No. 52.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 174.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 19, 1900.*

With reference to my despatch No. [illegible] of the 16th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the Turkish Government's proposal to raise a loan of [illegible] for the purpose of the Baghdad railway.

I have, &c.

(signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Major Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 18.)

Sir, *Van, April 26, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Government here has reliable information of a proposed extensive attacks by Armenian revolutionists from the side of the Persian frontier. Five important leaders of the "Hunchak" section have left Russia and repaired to Salmas in Persia, where they are organizing bands of revolutionaries at Haftwan and Melhem, close to Gulpashan.

I have known for some time past of the presence of a considerable number of revolutionaries in Salmas, but it was hoped that the Government would succeed in dispersing and disorganizing them, as we have heard from the latter.

Subsequently to the [illegible] cross to Erivan, [illegible] the points simultaneously were [illegible] to clear the Persian parts crossed [illegible] by the Serai road [illegible] to Alty, between near Basil and Kotur [illegible] on the 16th last [illegible] Shah's Russian Consul-General there.

Further posts have been reported by regular troops and gendarmes from here, and [illegible] are expected [illegible] to-day or to-morrow.

In short, we appear to be told that [illegible] be dispersed, and that [illegible] to stop the movement, I possibly [illegible] will succeed, but [illegible] they will be [illegible] control of regular officers to [illegible] regular [illegible] Christian villages.

The town [illegible] is [illegible] at present.

I have the honour to enclose [illegible] relative to the movements of the above [illegible].

I have, &c.

Sir [illegible] F. H. MAUNSELL.

No. 53.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 175. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 19, 1900.*

I LEARN on good authority that a scheme is on foot according to which the [illegible] proposed to be raised on the security of the appropriations guaranteeing a loan of some £T 20,000,000, for the construction of the Baghdad railway.

The loan appears to be for the new specific [illegible] an increase of £T 1,500,000 a year. Of this £T 300,000 would, it is understood, be [illegible] to the Deutsche Bank, as the interest of the Konia and Bulgurdagh, and the balance of £T 1,200,000, would satisfy the annual interest of the loan at 4 per cent with a sinking fund and other expenses.

The railway would, by this means, become the property of the Imperial Ottoman Government. The construction and management of the line remains, however, in the hands of the Anatolian Railway Company. It is stronger than ever secured on the funds of the Anatolian Railway Company. It is stronger than ever secured on the funds of the Anatolian Railway Company. It is stronger than ever secured on the funds

it would not cause Great Britain any serious uneasiness, but his hope that Her Majesty's Government will not outweigh any such slight objection that His Imperial Majesty would derive from the reflection that the railway would become the property of the Ottoman Government.

The estimate of the interest to be derived from the speculation, possibly exaggerated, is that, as the Concessionaires of Persian railways contracted to make up the deficiency.

The project of the loan is not yet completed, but efforts are being made to induce the Sublime Porte to accept a Commission of experts, under the Presidency of Selim Melhar Pasha, Master of Mines and Forests, whose impartiality and interest in the matter will be guaranteed by the fact that he is a native of Asia Minor.

From [illegible] I have [illegible] that [illegible] Railway [illegible] the Government [illegible] Railway [illegible] the report of Ostrorog [illegible] and loss [illegible] German Railway Company [illegible] Company [illegible] Government [illegible]

It would [illegible] Turkish [illegible] might have [illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 7

Sir N. O'Conor to the Earl of Rosebery.—Received May 28.

(No. 177.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 21, 1886.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting that he has been informed by the Governor of Bayazid that the Kurdish chief Mustapha Pasha, who had been summoned to Constantinople, has refused to obey the order, and has declared his intention of remaining in the Dersim district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jones to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Bayazid, February 27, 1886.*

I HAVE the honour to report that disturbances have occurred between the Kurdish tribe of Sorani and the Hamidieh tribe of Dersim, which threaten to develop into a serious revolt.

The details of the affair, which, for the present, are as follows:—

On the 22nd instant Hadji Ali Bey, of Bayazid, a member of the Hamidieh tribe, and Mustapha Pasha, the Chief of the Hamidieh tribe, quarrelled in the mosque of Shamakosy, a native Christian village dependent on Mohamed Agha, Sorani, of the village of Shamakosy, by which name it is known to the Kurds. Mohamed, on hearing of Hadji Ali's death, and knowing well the character of the Christian population, rushed to Mustapha Pasha's house, where the Christians usually take refuge. Finding Agha's house closed against him, he proceeded to the house of Agha Mohammed, Agha's brother, who, on hearing of the murder of his brother, and knowing that the Christians would be blamed for it, refused to admit Mohamed, who then went to the house of Agha Mohammed's father-in-law, Agha Sor, and there took refuge. The Christians of Shamakosy and Mohammed Agha Sor,

enraged at the news of this outrage, assembled a band of his followers to the number of about 2,000, armed with rifles, to attack the tribe that had carried out these sanguinary orders of their Chief, Mustapha Pasha.

I have the honour to add that the latest news received was to the effect that the Kaimakam of Djezireh, on receiving word of the Agha Mohammed design, had started with a body of troops for the defence of the threatened Sorani tribe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. JONES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jones to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 6.)
Sir, *Bayazid, May 5, 1886.*

With reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 27th February, I have the honour to report that Hadji Ali Bey, of the Hamidieh tribe, who was killed by Mustapha Pasha, of the Dersim tribe, on the 22nd February, was a Sorani Kurd, and not a member of the Hamidieh tribe. I consider that Mustapha Pasha will not be easily induced to submit to the orders of the Kaimakam of Djezireh, and that the latter will find it necessary to send troops against the Dersim tribe before the matter is settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. JONES.

No. 8

Sir N. O'Conor to the Earl of Rosebery.—Received May 31.

(No. 180.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 22, 1886.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus reporting the arrival at Mecca of Mukhlis Pasha, the new Governor-General of the Hedjaz, and the reception given to him by the Sherif Aun Rafik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Consul Ford to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 28.)
Sir, *Damascus, April 25, 1886.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Mukhlis Pasha, the new Governor-General of the Hedjaz, accompanied by Major-General Rustem Bey, Chief of the Staff of the Fourth Army Corps, and Colonel Ismail Hakki Bey, Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty the Sultan, arrived at Damascus on the 19th instant, and proceeded to Mecca on the following day.

Mukhlis Pasha was received with the usual salutes on his arrival at the station, and was conducted to the Konak by a detachment of the Imperial Body Guard, and a guard of honour of 100 men of the 5th Regiment of Infantry.

In the course of his stay here he inspected the Greek (read "Russian") schools, and had an interview with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, who, I hear, received him with very great honour.

It may be only a coincidence, but it is a curious fact that during the last year more Russian travellers of distinction have visited Damascus than has ever been the case before, the example being set, so to speak, by M. Antchkoff who, as reported in my despatches Nos. 20 and 26 of the 7th and 13th April, 1899, respectively inspected all the Greek schools in this vilayet, and received very marked official attentions wherever he went.

I have, &
(Signed) W. S. BICHARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 38.)

Sir, *Beirut, May 7, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Society Ahiya have lately established a large school at Damascus in connection with the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, and which is to be connected with their University here.

The Society's purpose, I understand, is to educate only Christian youths, and it is said that the Ottoman Government has vetoed the appointment of Moslem instructors.

The school has, I am informed, not yet been opened, but the work of building is now nearly completed.

I have, &
(Signed) P. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 55.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 44.)

Sir, *Beirut, May 7, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Tarsot, Inspector of Russian Schools at Tripoli, recently visited Lattakieh to take over two Orthodox schools (one for girls) for the "Société Russe des Ecoles Orthodoxes," the Orthodox community being unable to maintain them itself.

I am informed that these schools will now teach Russian, Arabic, the Orthodox catechism, and French or Turkish.

Six schools of the same nature are also to be opened in the Tripoli district, and M. Tarsot will probably be next proceed on a similar mission to Antioch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 56.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 191.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 28, 1900.*

A PERCENT. tax on the Constantinople exports was imposed by the Government for the suppression of Armenian Revolutionary Committees in every part of Asia Minor, but the tax has been levied only in the provinces of Anatolia.

It was generally believed that the Grand Vizier and Marshal Shakir Pasha, the High Commissioner of the Ottoman Government, had left Constantinople for the Armenian provinces with the object of [illegible] the Commissioners who had been sent to Europe [illegible]

[illegible] Council of Ministers, held on the 6th December, 1893, [illegible] Armenian Revolutionary Committees [illegible]

meetings, and with the dissolution of the wandering body which was to restore harmony in Asia Minor disappears the last pretence of carrying out the scheme.

Shakir Pasha's Commission served only to impoverish still further the provinces he visited. A few minor reports, such as the creation of "Mouavins," or assistants to the Governors, whose services could only have been carried out, and it is no exaggeration to say that the reforms of 1895 like so many others promulgated from the days of the Hatt-i-Sherif onwards, have remained a dead letter.

I have, &
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 57.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 194. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 31, 1900.*

IN my despatch No. 152, Confidential, of the 9th ultimo, I mentioned that the Armenian Patriarch had received instructions from the Porte to inform the Armenian Bishops that the Armenian people in the eastern vilayets [illegible] Turkish Government [illegible] and, he said, to [illegible] and free examination of the Armenian claims of the districts [illegible] Ottoman Empire.

The Grand Vizier's object in this step was to obtain [illegible] Europe and America [illegible] the Armenians, and to [illegible] Armenians to be [illegible] with the Kurds and peasants [illegible] Armenians in Asia Minor, which would [illegible] the Armenians [illegible] of the Armenian question.

The Russian Ambassador has since informed me that Prince Lobanoff, protesting against the despatch of Ottoman troops to the frontiers of Armenia, will [illegible] on the 21st instant by a second note.

Mr. Buck, who has seized the opportunity of his visit to this capital, gives the following account of its contents:

It refers to the preceding note of the 2nd November, 1899, and to the 13th February, 1900, which called the Porte's serious attention to the vexatious measures of the local authorities in the frontier provinces of Asia Minor, which were preventing the Armenians to cross the Russian border, and the absolute necessity of adopting the necessary measures to put an end to these "mouvements vexatoires." It states that these notes have remained unanswered, and that the deplorable state of the country is still the same, whilst the local authorities, instead of endeavouring to prevent the emigration of Armenians to Russia, seemed by their conduct to afford every encouragement to the same.

It refers to the difficulties raised by Ottoman Consuls with regard to the case of Armenians Turkish subjects wishing to return to Turkey, these being other than the peasants who fled during the disturbances and who are now being settled in the Caucasus in accordance with the Arrangement concluded between the Porte and the Russian Government.

The note insists strongly upon the necessity of instructing Consular officials no longer to raise difficulties in regard to the return of those Armenians, as also of instructing the frontier officials not to oppose their return, and it concludes with the following remarkable passage:—

"Il va sans dire que tout retard apporté par la Sublime Porte [illegible] des mesures sur la frontière russe [illegible] laissé à supposer à notre Excellence que l'Ambassade [illegible] Porte, [illegible] Gouvernement Impérial [illegible] son [illegible] Arméniens [illegible]

[illegible] Ambassador [illegible] Prince Lobanoff [illegible] with Imperial [illegible] Bab-i-Ali [illegible] induced [illegible] the Imperial Ministry [illegible] Sultan. His Imperial Majesty [illegible] Porte to [illegible] Armenians [illegible] according to Article 61 [illegible] Armenian [illegible] complete

remission of the military exception tax arrears, the collection of which had been adjourned, and promises facilities in the manner of its payment in future.

It seems probable that these concessions were made in consequence of the new attitude assumed by Russia in the Armenian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 58.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 200.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 1, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van reporting that a party of Herki and Zebari Kurds have taken up a position at Nestorian Christian village of Salikeh, south-east of Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 59.

Major Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Van, May 21, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a very large force, estimated at 8,000 men, has assembled at Shatakh, south-east of Van, under the command of Zeki Pasha, assisted by Hamdi Bey and Ali Effendi.

The object of the gathering is said to be to march against the Zebari Kurds, who have taken up a position at the village of Salikeh, on the Persian frontier, and who refuse to pay taxes. They have also threatened to attack Shatakh.

The troops are encamped on the plain of Shatakh, and are said to number 4,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry, and 2 guns. Van has been practically denuded of troops.

The Zebaris are reported to be in a very strong position, and to have 1,000 fighting men.

Should the Turkish troops be defeated, the Armenians of Van will be in a very critical position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. P. MAUNSELL.

No. 60.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury. (*Received June 11.*)

(No. 204.)

Constantinople, June 4, 1900.

My Lord,

With reference to Your Lordship's despatch No. [illegible] of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have had an interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the course of which I spoke to him in the sense of the instructions contained in that despatch.

[illegible]

I have, &c.

(Signed) NICOLAS O'CONOR.

[illegible]

Turkey.

(No. [illegible].)

Sir,

[illegible]

I have, &c.

(Signed) [illegible] MAUNSELL.

No. 61.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury. (*Received June 18.*)

(No. 210. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 13, 1900.

I HAVE [illegible] receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. [illegible] of the 1st instant, [illegible] Her Majesty's Consul at [illegible] reporting [illegible] the Sultan, [illegible] Chief Minister, [illegible] Armenian [illegible].

I have, &c.

(Signed) NICOLAS O'CONOR.

[illegible]

Turkey.

(No. [illegible].)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 20, 1900.

I HAVE [illegible] your despatch No. [illegible] of the 13th instant, [illegible] Her Majesty's Consul at [illegible] that [illegible] Sultan [illegible] Armenian [illegible] Orthodox Church.

I approve [illegible] Excellency's reply to Mr. Marash [illegible] your despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 62.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 170.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 20, 1900.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 202 of the 4th instant relative to the suggestion of Her Majesty's Consul at [illegible] that [illegible] Armenian [illegible] to assist the [illegible] Orthodox Church.

I approve your Excellency's reply to Mr. Marash [illegible] your despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 63.

Mr. Spring-Rice to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 51. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tehran, May 30, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Prince Borghese, who has been staying with the German Consul at Bagdad on his way to Tehran, told me that he had met the survey of German engineers who were surveying a line to the extension of the Anatolian Railway. They assured him that the railway could not possibly pay its promoters unless the Sultan guaranteed the payment of interest on the shares. There was hardly enough merchandize carried on the caravans which passed between Baghdad and the west to make one railway pay. They also told him that Koweit was to be the terminus of the line and the English allowed it, as a port at Koweit was an essential part of the scheme.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CECIL SPRING RICE.

No. 64.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—Received July 2.

(No. 212.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 1, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith Nos. 2 and 3 of the Consular Reports for the Ottoman Empire for [illegible] and to call your Lordship's attention to the respective values of the Turkish and Egyptian currencies as therein stated. The Egyptian currency is now practically the only one in use in Turkey, as the Turkish currency has disappeared from circulation, and the Egyptian currency is also gradually being withdrawn, so that Mr. Skene's efforts to introduce a uniform currency have been crowned with success.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Enclosure in No. 64.

Mr. Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 2.)

(Extract.) *Erzeroum, June 4, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the question of the navigability of the River Euphrates, referred to in despatch No. 206 of the 19th ultimo, has been satisfactorily arranged. The 'Arkadia,' of Volo, Kyriakos Bros., master, left Erzeroum for the Euphrates on the 31st ultimo, and returned to Erzeroum on the 3rd instant, having successfully navigated the river to Kemakh and back.

The vessel was to have proceeded to Egin, but the Governor of Kemakh would not allow her to go further than Kemakh, as he was afraid to take the responsibility of allowing a steamer to go further without first communicating with the Governor of Egin.

The vessel was accompanied by Captain Reeds, of the Imperial Ottoman Navy, and by a boat's crew of 10 men, all of whom have now certificates that the navigation was successfully accomplished.

The Kyriakos Brothers have also a steamer, the 'Euphrates,' which is now plying between Erzeroum and Egin, and will shortly be joined by the 'Arkadia.' The late Mutessarif of Egin, Ali Effendi, has been appointed Governor of Bayazid, and has left for his post. The Vali of Erzeroum has also left for Bayazid, and it is expected that the Governor of Egin will meet them there.

[illegible] Salisbury's visit to Erzeroum [illegible] Governor's visit to Egin. Here he met a number of the Kurdish chiefs on their way to summer pastures on the mountains on the Persian frontier, but they managed to pass the frontier, and it was considered inadvisable to pursue.

The Vali tells me he proposes to capture all their sheep on their return in August, at a certain narrow pass in the mountains favourable for the purpose.

Of the main body of the raiders from Zebari and Amadia in Mosul Vilayet no information can be obtained from here, but I hear that troops are left Mosul to punish them.

No. 65.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—Received July 2.

(No. 219.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 2, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum reporting on the state of the Russian Mission [illegible] Persian frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Enclosure in No. 65.

Consul Devereux to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 2.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, June 15, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith [illegible] from the Governor of Bayazid, who has visited [illegible] Russian Mission [illegible] Persian frontier, and to report that the Mission [illegible] Persian territory [illegible] Mount Ararat [illegible] Russian territory [illegible] Mount Ararat [illegible] Persian territory [illegible] Russian territory [illegible] Persian territory [illegible] Russian territory [illegible] Persian territory [illegible] Russian territory

Mr. Wells's report, No. 44, of 19th November, 1900, to Inclosure No. 2 of his despatch No. 1 of the 3rd January, 1901.

The Esparta Land Company, which has obtained a concession from the Ottoman Government for the construction of a railway from Smyrna to Aidin, has, Mr. Wells reports, been unsuccessful in its endeavours to obtain the co-operation of the Russian Banque Internationale de Constantinople, which is largely controlled by Russian capitalists, and which has been approached with a view to the formation of a Syndicate for the construction of the Persian Government railways. Engineers of the Russian Company have been engaged in surveying the district.

[illegible] Report of Mr. Wells on the subject of Mr. Cuinet's work on Asiatic Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 67

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received [illegible])

(No. 28.)

My Lord,

[illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 68

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received [illegible])

(No. 23. Commercial.)

Therapia, July 3, 1900.

My Lord,

With reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit a French translation of the consular portion of the Annual Report of the Special Commissioner who was deputed to study the prospects of railway development from Kerak to the Persian Gulf. A short Memorandum giving a general view of the contents of this paper is likewise enclosed.

It will be seen that the estimated cross annual receipts of 1,000 per kilometre, an amount which would about cover the working expenses, would suffice for payment of interest on the capital.

The Report does not deal with the question of the cost of the new line, but it is clear that the mountain passes along the Syrian coast would present very considerable difficulties. It is thought that, however, these difficulties could be overcome, and it is pointed out that if the main route is secured a large proportion of the traffic from the interior would be attracted to it.

A translation of the concluding part of this Report, which contains some valuable information from a commercial point of view, is also enclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

The south-eastern portion of Konia and the provinces of Adana and Aleppo are described as possessing very large tracts of fertile and well-watered land, capable of considerable agricultural and commercial development, but at present only partially cultivated. These districts, however, are well supplied with roads, and the Report mentions that the depredations of Arab tribes, which formerly rendered the country round Aleppo unsafe, have now been suppressed, and the district is thickly populated with villages and flourishing agricultural communities.

The Report suggests that a hydrographic survey should be made of the rivers Sajur and Afrin, which flow into the Euphrates, as it is stated that these streams could be rendered navigable for small steamers at a comparatively small cost. The Report also points out that the Euphrates Valley Railway Company, which has obtained a concession from the Ottoman Government for the construction of a railway from Aleppo to Birejik, on the Euphrates, has not yet commenced the construction of the line, and that the Company has not, as yet, taken any steps to utilize the navigation of the Euphrates, which, it is stated, could be rendered available for steamers of 1,000 tons burden as far as Birejik, and for smaller steamers as far as Meskeneh, a distance of 150 miles from the Mediterranean.

The Report suggests that the Euphrates Valley Railway Company should be induced to carry out the proposals mentioned in the Report, and that the Company should be urged to commence the construction of the line from Aleppo to Meskeneh, a distance of about 100 miles, which would be sufficient to attract traffic from the interior to the Mediterranean. The Report points out that the Euphrates Valley Railway Company has the right to construct a railway from Aleppo to Alexandretta, and suggests that the Company should be urged to exercise this right, as the line would then be shorter than the proposed line to Birejik, and would tap the rich districts round Aleppo, which are now served by the Aleppo-Alexandretta line.

[illegible] Report of Mr. Wells on the subject of Mr. Cuinet's work on Asiatic Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 68

Konia Province

Extract from Second Part of the Commercial Report to Turkish Commissioner.

THE Report deals separately with the various districts of which the province consists. The first of these is the sub-district of Konia, the second is that of Alexandretta, the third is that of Adana, the fourth is that of Aleppo, and the fifth is that of Zor. The Report then proceeds to give a general description of the province as a whole. It begins with the three sub-districts mentioned above, and gives the following information, which is partial only, as the author of the Report was unable to visit the whole of the districts.

A general view of the sub-district of Konia, which is one of the largest in the province, proceeds as follows:—Across the plains, by the side of the River Carsak, flows apparently to Dereboi, leaving Adana on the left. Thence southwards, to the foot of the Taurus Mountains, the country is level and fertile. The Taurus Mountains, which form the boundary of the sub-district on the south, are rich in minerals, and contain valuable forests. The sub-district is well supplied with roads, and is traversed by the Konia-Eregli Railway, which passes through the centre of the district from north to south. The Report then proceeds to describe the various districts in detail, and gives the following information:—

[illegible] Mountains, which are rich in minerals, and contain valuable forests. The sub-district is well supplied with roads, and is traversed by the Konia-Eregli Railway, which passes through the centre of the district from north to south. The Report then proceeds to describe the various districts in detail, and gives the following information:—

[illegible] Alexandretta. The existing Adana-Mersina line will [illegible] Konia are the [illegible] Mersina, at which will [illegible] be [illegible] of the [illegible] province [illegible] is described [illegible] Adana and [illegible] Mersina. Several [illegible] the [illegible] Adana and [illegible] [illegible] other [illegible] the [illegible] of

No. 69.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 233.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July 6, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, giving an interesting account of the condition of affairs in the Koshab and Norduz Cazas of the vilayet, and I venture to draw your Lordship's particular attention to the efforts made by Russian Consular officers to win over the Kurdish tribes in these districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Major Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 46.)

Sir, *Van, June 19, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have just returned from a tour of the Koshab and Norduz Cazas of this vilayet, and from the conditions que

What was particularly noticeable, was the added boldness of last year's thieves, emboldened by the impunity with which they were allowed to commit their depredations in Van, and the prevalence of cattle-stealing in the Norduz district. Many complaints were made to me of this kind, and I can myself testify to the number of cattle I saw being driven in the direction of Persia.

The state of Norduz was even worse than that of Koshab, as the Kurds there have practically had their own way since

In spite of the severity of the winter, which in the mountainous districts of this province lasts from October till May, the people of the district of Norduz, and principally those of the village of Ortchi (goat's head) in the province

Various reasons for this state of affairs have been given me, but I am sorry to say that there were quite ten times that number of sheep in the district, and from the deserted state of the country, I should think this was true.

One official I was told of had been robbed of three times in succession, and I myself saw other Government officials who had been robbed of their horses.

The chief complaint was the insecurity caused by the several Hamidieh regiments that are quartered in the district, and who, instead of protecting the people, are themselves the worst and most notorious robbers and marauders in the country.

Sherif Bey, of the Sekik Haji Aleh, of the Hartoshi, Musa Pasha, of the Mira Ortchi, Veli, of the Shex Sadik Aga, of the Mekan, and Kurbanssar Sherif Bey, of Norduz itself, are the perpetrators of most of the various Hamidieh excesses, the last, as the chief Kurds of the district who live in or close to this district.

My Russian colleague M. Maclsky travelled through this country last autumn, and I hear some interesting details which tend to show his constant endeavours to conciliate and win over the Kurds to Russian influence.

Near Koshab is a high mountain, on whose summit is a "ziaret," or shrine, of a departed Kurdish saint, held in the highest veneration locally, and to which pilgrimages are made.

M. Maclsky climbed to the summit, and there sacrificed a sheep with considerable ceremony to the Kurds of the Sekik, at the same time distributing presents to all the local Kurds who accompanied him. The mountain stands in the small village of the district known as Ortchi.

The crosses are as Armenians (crosses of Constantine), so it could scarcely have been done on their behalf.

The attitude of the Russian Consul-General, as I have stated previously in Khoi, is that of a friend to the Kurds.

I have ascended the mountain (11,727 ft.), and the summit is too deep for [illegible] of mud at this season.

I understand M. Maclsky or M. Prejvalsky [illegible] of a practice

R

by Kurdish Aghas in various parts of the country towards their frontier, and I think there must be some foundation for the various reports that most of the Hamidieh Chiefs have been bought over or largely influenced by these Russians, who are constantly travelling among them.

The price of bread in Van has continued very high, and this seriously affects the trade of the place and the condition of the poorer Armenians in the town and surrounding districts.

This season's wheat is now beginning to arrive from Diarbekir, and high prices can no longer be maintained.

At one time the price reached 120 paras, or 3 piastres, an oke, which is exorbitant in this country.

There is a sufficiency of wheat in the town, but a ring of Armenian merchants and some Turks have forced up the prices and restricted sales.

The Vali, although he has been long up his duties, has done much to check and succeeded several times in bringing down prices, but every device that native cunning could suggest was used to defeat his object. He finally threatened to import wheat from other districts, but in many cases the ring would buy up the whole of the new supply before it could reach the town.

Some merchants have made money, but the real losers are the starving Armenian villagers, who were to be seen in numbers every day in the streets looking for work, but of which there was little or none to be had. Many have got deeply into debt, and have had to sell their last piece of land or have mortgaged their crops to the Kurdish landlords. Many have died from starvation.

Taxes on this crop have not yet been collected, but will be enforced in August, although a good deal of distress is anticipated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL.

No. 70.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 238.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 10, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 231 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a French summary of the first part of the Commercial Report of the Special Commission deputed to study the prospects of the projected line from Konia to the Persian Gulf.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 71.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 239.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 10, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch, which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, reporting an affray between the local authorities and Kurds in the district of Zuji and depredations of the Milli Kurds in the district of Hakiari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

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* Not printed.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Vice-Consul Jones to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Diarbekir, June 26, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 18th instant an affray, which resulted in some loss of life, occurred between the local authorities in the district of Zuji in this province and the villagers of the Kurdish village of Darako.

The inhabitants of the village refused hitherto to pay the sheep tax due to the Government, and had, moreover, resisted the endeavour of the Executive Officer who had been sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment for murder. The Kaimakam of Zuji accordingly, accompanied by a body of regular troops and the Tax Commissioner of Police, proceeded to the village with the view of enforcing the demands of the authorities, but, although most desirous to spare the effusion of the villagers, with the result that of the last one was killed and two others severely wounded by the Kaimakam's party, who, with the exception of a few shots fired by the villagers, suffered no casualties.

With the Kaimakam's despatch to this effect I received a telegram from the Governor-General of Mamuret-ul-Aziz, in which he ordered me to proceed to the district of Zuji and there to inquire into the matter.

I have therefore started for the district of Zuji, which is distant about 12 hours from Diarbekir, and have arranged that 100 regular troops shall meet me at Hazro, a village about half-way between Diarbekir and Zuji, for the purpose of escorting me to the latter place.

I have also been informed by the Governor-General that he has ordered the Kaimakam of Zuji to proceed to Diarbekir and there await further instructions, owing to the fact that the Governor-General considers that the Kaimakam's presence in the district of Zuji would only tend to make the inquiry more difficult.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 72.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 240.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 10, 1900.*

HAVING heard that the Imperial Government had appointed the second dragoman of the Embassy at Vienna, Count Lützow, who, as your Lordship will remember, was the Vali of Diarbekir at the time of the massacres, and was dismissed from that post at the representations of this and other Embassies (see Level Corrie's No. 91 of the 11th November, 1895), I have thought it well, in view of his deplorable antecedents to convey to the Sublime Porte a serious warning of the dangers involved by such an appointment. I did yesterday remind Tewfik Pasha of the serious charges made against him during his tour of office at Diarbekir, I recorded in despatches laid before Parliament at the time. I expressed my great surprise that the Porte should have given its sanction, such as it must have done, for Count Lützow's appointment, which the Government was pressing for at Vienna at the very time when the Vali of Diarbekir was under the orders of the Ottoman Government to collect evidence against the Armenians who had been implicated in the massacres which took place in that province.

I told Tewfik Pasha that I had received instructions from my Government to call the attention of the Porte to the appointment of Count Lützow, which Mr. Consul Graves has already reported to Her Majesty's Government, and to express the hope that the Porte would not insist upon the appointment being carried out. I added that I was sure that the Porte would not wish to create any difficulty in the way of the departure of the Embassy from Constantinople, which would be the inevitable result if Count Lützow were to come here.

Tewfik Pasha replied that he would take the matter before the Council of Ministers, but he could not promise that the Porte would refuse its consent to the appointment, which had already been made by the Austrian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

The Russian Ambassador, to whom I spoke last night on this subject, said that he would make similar representations at the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

No. 73.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 84.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 2, 1900.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's Despatch No. [illegible] of the 17th instant, reporting the appointment of Ismail Pasha to the post of Governor of Aleppo.

I approve your Excellency's [illegible] course of the dangers involved in the appointment of [illegible] officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 74.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 219.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 13, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 200 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that in answer to the representations which, in concert with my French, Russian, and Italian colleagues, I had addressed to His Majesty's Government on the subject of Mr. Spencer Eyre's visit to Aleppo, Tewfik Pasha has informed us that His Majesty's Government have decided to withdraw the Vali, and that the latter will shortly proceed to his new post. The actual decision of His Majesty was the same day communicated to the Grand Vizier, who, on being informed that Mr. Eyre's visit to Aleppo had been undertaken with the knowledge and approval of the Ottoman Government, replied that he was glad to hear it, as it showed that the Porte had not been in the wrong.

It is gratifying to me to be able to add that this solution has been arrived at without any loss of prestige to the Ottoman Government. I spoke strongly to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the sense of Mr. Spencer Eyre's telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

No. 75.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 202.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 17, 1900.*

RUMOURS exist in Christian circles of Bosnia that steps are being taken to bring the general very deep interest. It is desired that the Christian Powers should restrain the Sultan, or at least show their sympathy with the Christians who, apparently contrary to the Treaty of Berlin, are being [illegible].

If the grandiose scheme of the Salonica-Mitrovitza railway, which has been projected at Pekin, there is no doubt that it will affect the Moslem population of this Empire in a way which is far from desirable, and which, as long as it remains unpunished and the Moslems in ignorance of the retribution, may endanger the security of the Christian population throughout Asia Minor, and especially in those remote districts where the Christians are in a great majority. Providentially there is promise of a plentiful harvest, and the reports from several districts in the interior are more encouraging than for some years past, so that it is to be hoped that the hardships of Turkish taxation and the consequent exactions of the officials will be sensibly lessened in the present season.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

No. 76.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 210.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 18, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 202 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a translation of a memorandum which has been communicated to me by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, containing a statement of the measures which the Ottoman Government have taken to prevent the importation of plague into Egypt.

It is gratifying to me to be able to add that this solution has been arrived at without any loss of prestige to the Ottoman Government. I spoke strongly to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the sense of Mr. Spencer Eyre's telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

No. 77.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 157.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 28, 1900.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. [illegible] of the 18th instant, reporting the instructions which have been issued to the Ottoman Consul at Aleppo to take no further steps in the matter of the Consular Pension claimed by Mr. Eyre, and to take steps to withdraw the Consular Flag from the post of Euphrates Pasha, hitherto occupied by the Consul at Aleppo.

Your Excellency's action [illegible] approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 78.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 178.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August [illegible], 1900.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. [illegible] of the 28th ultimo, reporting the [illegible] respecting the [illegible] Vali of Aleppo.

I approve your [illegible] the [illegible] of the instructions assigned by Mr. Spencer Eyre.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 79.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury. (Received August 6.)

(No. 250.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 20, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 224 of the 26th June, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch and I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at [illegible] giving some particulars in connection with the recent [illegible] Kurds and Russian Cossacks across the frontier into Persian Kurdistan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. P. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Mr. Monat to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 9.)
Sir, [illegible], July 14, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report that [illegible] Kurdish Chief [illegible] Russian Cossacks [illegible] Persian Kurdistan [illegible] Russian Consular Agent [illegible] Urmi [illegible] Russian Consular Agent [illegible] Urmi [illegible] Persian Kurdistan

mentioned by Mr Lamb, as I understand a copy of the Report. This his Excellency has since done, and I have the honour to enclose a copy herewith.

From a further telegram which I received last night from Mr Lamb, in a somewhat mutilated form, it would seem that the Kaimakam of Van had no news of the reported massacre, Mr Lamb regards his intelligence as substantially confirmed. He states that nine villages have been wholly, and two others partially, destroyed, and that the victims number from 400 to 500. Mr Lamb adds that three villages were suffering hostility in 1894, are reported to be surrounded by troops, but it is not clear whether this measure is taken for their protection or not.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 81.

Consul Lamb to Sir N. O'Conor.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Erzeroum, July 28, 1900.*

A LETTER purporting to come from [illegible] states that [illegible] writer, the Kaimakam of Shatak, has received a telegram from the Kaimakam of Hizan, stating that [illegible] to the truth of this village.

Inclosure 2 in No. 81.

Rapport envoyé par le Consul de France.

Le nombre des réfugiés arméniens [illegible] Sert, Bitlis, Mouch, Sassoun et Talori [illegible] Kurdes.

Leur chef, Moussa, [illegible] que les Arméniens [illegible] et que les gens de Talori [illegible] les maisons.

Ils auraient tué, dit-on, [illegible] précédent et comptent faire encore, étant [illegible] mes jeunes et belles [illegible] Tous les gamins qu'ils avaient refusés seraient ouverts [illegible] les troupes [illegible] des pendus aux arbres, pratiques dans les pays où [illegible] guse de martyrs. Cependant [illegible] rassurent, disent des assurances qui leur furent [illegible] les [illegible] [illegible] que leurs balles avaient [illegible] ses soldats, [illegible] deux [illegible] [illegible] Obligés [illegible] se dégager, [illegible] Quand on pénètre pas très vite dans l'un ou l'autre, on y reste, dit-on.

Grâce [illegible] aux hostilités prises, et à la présence de nombreuses troupes à Sassoun et Talori, la tranquillité [illegible] dans ces parages, ont paru être compromises et Musulmans et Chrétiens continuent à vaquer à leurs occupations en toute sécurité.

Le 8 Juillet, 1900 (v. s.).

No. 82.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 270.)

My Lord, [illegible] *Constantinople, August 1, 1900.*

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

territory not far from Bagdad, which resulted in the destruction of the village of Seomar.

Having ascertained that the Persian Ambassador, who has just returned from leave, had spoken to the Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding these raids, I inquired the day before yesterday of Tewfik Pasha into the facts of the case, and urged upon him the desirability of a joint inquiry on the spot with a view to reaching an amicable arrangement.

Tewfik Pasha said that, as regards the raid near Serai, this proposal was already under consideration, and that, though no decision had yet been come to, he believed an Ottoman Delegate would be sent to the scene of the raid.

As regards the incursion near Bagdad, his Excellency explained, though in somewhat confused language, that there were certain undefined pasture and arable lands on the frontier the boundaries of which had never been properly delimitated, notwithstanding that frequent applications to this end had been made during the last twelve years to the Persian Embassy and Government.

He believed the fact to be that the Persian Government had no real authority over the frontier tribes, or any sufficient regular force to enforce obedience, and hence they were unwilling to demarcate the frontier.

He sent for a telegram which he had lately received from the Vali of Bagdad, recounting the facts, and was good enough to give me a copy of it which I inclose herewith.

I saw nothing in Tewfik Pasha's observations to make me think that the Turkish Government consider the matter a very serious one, and still less that they contemplate any aggressive action.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Tahir Bey to Tewfik Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *L. 16 Juillet*, 1900 (v. s.).

TROIS CENTS cavaliers (sic), ayant à leur tête Daoud Khan, Chef de la tribu Persane des Hellèors, ont envahi aujourd'hui le Caza de Mendeli, et se sont mis à piller tout ce qu'ils trouvaient dans les maisons et chez les tribus des environs de Baghtchéhik.

Les gendarmes montés se trouvant à Mendéli furent envoyés à leur poursuite, mais, vu leur disparité par rapport au grand nombre des agresseurs, les autorités locales durent réclamer des renforts suffisants que les autorités militaires leur ont envoyés.

Mais dans l'intervalle environ 400 cavaliers des tribus des Mamoudes et de Daoudas, qui se sont dernièrement refugiés en Perse, étaient venus se joindre aux hommes de Daoud Khan pour piller les tribus de Mendéli, ce qui avait donné à mouvement une plus grande extension.

Toutes les dispositions nécessaires ont été prises pour le rétablissement de l'ordre et de la sécurité à Mendéli.

No. 83.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 163.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 9, 1900.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 267 of the 31st ultimo respecting a massacre which is reported to have taken place in the district of Tabriz.

I entirely approve the representations which your Excellency has addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on this subject, and await with interest your further reports on the facts.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 84.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) P *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1900.

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires has called here with instructions to deny the report of a massacre in the Talori district, of which you informed me by your despatch No. 265 of the 31st July, and to state that the pursuit of brigands has been all that has happened. Hamid Bey says that the report of our Consul confirms this. Is this so?

No. 85.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—Received August 15.)

No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) P *Constantinople, August* 15, 1900.

TALORI Massacre.

My despatch of the 10th instant, [illegible] Mr. Consul Cuinet has left Ortakeui to investigate [illegible] by the Embassy reports lately received from the Vali of Kastamuni [illegible] Chargé d'Affaires [illegible] thoroughly there [illegible]

Confidential.

[illegible] Kossby to Sebastopol [illegible] as [illegible] July [illegible] passport was [illegible] to Batoum [illegible] Tiflis [illegible] Russian [illegible] Erzeroum [illegible] Trebizond [illegible] Batoum [illegible] Tiflis [illegible] Erzeroum [illegible] Trebizond [illegible]

No. 86.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) C *Constantinople, August* 19, 1900.

MASSACRE in Turkish district.

My despatch No. 287 of the 14th instant.

The Sultan informed me to-day through the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he [illegible] reliable reports of the massacre at Seghanli, but that he has ordered [illegible] Consul-General Chanoff to inquire into the facts in order that [illegible] guilty persons shall be punished.

The Ortakeui [illegible] with the Commission will be suspended.

No. 87.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 278.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 11, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copies of two [illegible] which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir reporting outrages committed by the Hamidieh [illegible] of Saturday last.

A telegram of Colonel Ward to whom I had addressed [illegible] of these [illegible] has also been received. Mr. Jones [illegible] Mr. Consul Barnham [illegible]

I have &c.
(Signed) [illegible] BARCLAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Vice-Consul Jones to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 27.)
Sir, *Diarbekir, July* 17, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report that considerable dissatisfaction prevails among the more orderly part of the Mahomedan population of this city and district owing to the frequent attacks made by roving bands of irregular Hamidieh troops on the peaceful villagers, and travellers who are unable to obtain any redress for the injuries inflicted on them.

As instances of the violence and lawlessness of these lawless troops I may mention the following incidents:—

On the night of the 13th instant the village of Yeradjik, about four hours' distance to the east of this city, was attacked by Hamidiehs, who carried away twenty-seven horses belonging to the villagers.

On the 14th instant the village of Shenkh also was visited by these irregulars and a struggle ensued, the result being that the village Headman was severely wounded, one villager killed, and 200 sheep carried off by the assailants.

[illegible] Kurdish [illegible] Hamidieh [illegible] Diyadin [illegible] Kurdish [illegible] Hamidieh [illegible] Kurdish [illegible] Hamidieh [illegible] Kurdish [illegible] Hamidieh

On the [illegible] of the 20th instant the [illegible] village of Tchal and Derbister, about three hours' distance to the south-west of the city, were plundered and burnt to the ground by the Hamidieh.

On the 21st instant two villages visited by these troops, one of which a Musulman village that of Kavestan, a distance of three and a half to the west, was also plundered and burnt down. Both at the Christian village of Khymeras, distant about two and a half hours to the north, the inhabitants were left unmolested by the Hamidiehs, who, however, carried off 950 head of cattle sent by their owners to the Kurdish tribe, Dizeyi, for pasture near Bash[illegible]ge for protection.

On the 2[illegible] instant the troops visited the village of Kartchkan, four hours to the west of Bash[illegible] and carried off [illegible] head of cattle.

I have to inform you that the Bitlis villages visited [illegible] property of that of Khymeras, are inhabited by [illegible] Mussulmans, [illegible]

I have &c.

(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 88

[illegible]

(No. 279.)

My Lord, *Constantinople*, [illegible]

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note [illegible] which I received from the Italian Vice-Consul at Van [illegible] with the view of [illegible] affairs in that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) [illegible]

[illegible] No. 88

Mons. Mancini to Sir [illegible]

(No. 31.)

Sir, *Pera, July 24, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward [illegible] to the report for the quarter ended the 30th June.

I have [illegible] returned from [illegible] to the further [illegible] of the vilayet, and also [illegible] a tour of several days' duration to Bergri to Diadin, through Tuji Plain to the Ortlagan Pass.

Tuji is situated on the [illegible] slopes of the Ala Dagh, and although there are the remains of some [illegible] houses, it is now inhabited except in summer, by Kurds from the Bayazid [illegible] district.

Not far from Bergri are [illegible] Haideranli Kurds encamped in summer [illegible] tents, but otherwise the [illegible] is a succession of open downs and valleys affording good pasturage.

I first saw Kurdish [illegible] at Bergri, belonging to Mahmud Bey, son of Mirza Agha, the Chief of the Zoravanli [illegible] of the Tuji plain, settled in winter near Kizildize. Other Chiefs [illegible] were Ali Effendi, [illegible] and Mehmed Bey.

All the Kurds I met were armed [illegible] with Snider rifles, and had [illegible] considerable numbers.

The encampments from Bergri to Diadin [illegible] and Khanis until [illegible] Hasan with seventy horsemen [illegible] a large [illegible] of Kurds [illegible] 200 [illegible] Hamidieh cavalry regiments.

All the tribes were [illegible] to be [illegible] Turkish [illegible] and I got [illegible] Persian horses [illegible] by all the Chiefs [illegible] for sale.

Mahmud Bey's [illegible] was [illegible] further to the south, with Osmanli troops [illegible] there. I [illegible] at present to Bergri [illegible] Mahmud was [illegible] to the Haideranli [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] to be [illegible] to [illegible] that [illegible] any [illegible]

West of the Haideranli country are the Sipeki Kurds, with whom the former are constantly fighting, while between Bergri and Van are the Shevekli, who are also at enmity with the Haideranli, and practically prevent their access to Van markets.

The Takiri are counted as part of the large Shekak tribe, with whom the Haideranli have had constant struggles.

Thus it is difficult to [illegible] so many sections constantly engaged in internecine warfare how any [illegible] concerted rising against Turkish power could take place, as a leader under whom [illegible] could be [illegible] would be difficult to find. Possibly, however, a Sheikh or [illegible] might [illegible] the Sheikh Obeidullah or [illegible] the present Sheikh Mahmud Sheikh might [illegible] sufficient power to [illegible] elements.

I submit that [illegible] the [illegible] of the Kurds to [illegible] the power of the Turkish [illegible] which [illegible] regiments, and have [illegible] increased influence of their tribe, with all, or very many [illegible] the Ottoman Government, [illegible] may be all the Kurds [illegible].

Many times I [illegible] spoken of Kurds [illegible] an amount of theft, but [illegible] days I [illegible] from an [illegible] that [illegible] the Mussulmans [illegible].

[illegible] Hamidieh [illegible] are kept specially [illegible] to [illegible] from such [illegible] to [illegible] not [illegible] The Kurds [illegible] are [illegible] to [illegible] of Hamidieh [illegible] to be [illegible].

[illegible] Kurds [illegible] the Christians were [illegible] very [illegible] against [illegible] the Hamidieh [illegible] accounts [illegible] many years [illegible].

One [illegible] from [illegible] Kurds [illegible] the Christian [illegible].

"The Kurds [illegible] Europeans [illegible] They did look towards Persia.

At the Diadin [illegible] I [illegible] to [illegible] Government, and was told that exactly [illegible] caravans on the Persian frontier, [illegible] caravans on the Russian, and to seek the former [illegible].

Recently the Kaimakam of Diadin, Stavridi, [illegible] from the schools gave up his post in despair [illegible] Kurds, and is now [illegible] by an "Mudir Kaimakam," or Governor, assisted [illegible] Regulars, who manage to get [illegible].

From Diadin I returned [illegible] through Hussein Pasha's villages Patnotz and Surra.

Hussein Pasha and Patnotz still absent at Erzeroum, whither they had gone to see Zeki Pasha, [illegible] against the Van Valis. They are now returned [illegible] having gone [illegible] large presents.

In Patnotz I [illegible] Kurds, [illegible] young Haideranli Kurds under a [illegible] some years ago. Now [illegible] Hussein has appropriated the [illegible] and [illegible].

On [illegible] the Sipeki Plain, where Hussein Pasha, Hajji Tahir Pasha, and Emin Pasha [illegible] to Christian [illegible] Davis [illegible] after the massacre.

After [illegible] Pasha Zorik [illegible] Kurds [illegible] the scenes of the [illegible] of this [illegible].

The large [illegible] Kurds [illegible] Van [illegible] Kurds [illegible] Kurdish [illegible].

[illegible]

among the Kurd. For instance, for a cup of milk, or something worth a few paras, 5 pastres was always the price given.

I regret to say that Ervan Pesan, after spending eight months in Van prison, has now been released. The prosecution, chiefly Turks in Arjish, declined to come forward, and the trial was in danger of falling through altogether when finally orders came from the Palace for his release.

The Vali told me that he was really lenient on Ervan, and could at any time call him up again to answer the charges against him; this course was preferable to an acquittal.

I draw the fact of his having spent eight months in prison, which shows that he is not quite beyond the power of the Government, to his no doubt have a good effect on him.

He saw the Vali before he left, and protested strongly his good behaviour in future.

The Hekari Serdjasian is a perfectly quiet, and I hear, good accountant of the new Mutessarif of Bashkala.

Trouble between Kotchanes and Herkis has prevented any disturbances between Christians and Kurds. In Erasmus every watch and ward is kept against attacks on the Tari Christians by the Herkis, Kurds of the Haji Agha.

This latter is engaged in a struggle with his brother for the Chieftainship, and will retain the former as his.

Mar Emmanuel Bishop has accepted the Nestorian Archbishopric under Mutran Basil, the Chief Patriarchal of the Mar Shimun's who live the summer pastures there.

The Kurdish chiefs have been arrested at Krotsa after their retirement from the attack on Tari Christians, and have now again Government officials of the Nestorian [illegible] charges have been raised of [illegible]

[illegible] are taken seriously by the people [illegible]

As soon as I hope to visit Van, as my representation on [illegible] I have hoped that the Vali [illegible] has assured me that [illegible] and that there [illegible] the Kurd and of some Christian refugees [illegible] Van, &c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL.

No. 89

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury. (*Received August 20.*)

(No. 280.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August 11, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of three despatches which I have received from the British Consular Agent at Mosul through Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, respecting the election of a Chaldean Patriarch at the former place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 89.

Letter from the British Consular Agent at Mosul.

(No. 19.)

Translation.

Sir, *May 22, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the ballot-papers were opened, and resulted in the election as Patriarch of Bishop [illegible] Vicar of the Convent of Deir Sofra.

[illegible] from the Patriarchate arrived [illegible] brought to Mosul

attacked the village of Babuth, looted the sheep there and killed two of the inhabitants.

Sheikh Nur Mahammed sent his men to the village of Doghat, whose inhabitants are Yezidis, plundered the sheep, numbering about 750, and killed one man.

Three days ago his Excellency the Vali received a telegram from the Minister of Justice at Constantinople prohibiting the Chaldean Bishops, who have assembled at Mosul, from electing a Patriarch at present, and ordering that they shall in the first instance elect a [illegible] and after confirmation by the Porte of the appointment, to proceed to elect a Patriarch under his presidency, and further confirming the said Bishops against the non-interference and presence of the Latin Papal Delegate at the election. In the telegram it is added that, if this order is not complied with, it will be the worse for the Bishops.

(Signed) NIMROD RASSAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 89

Letter from the British Consular Agent at Mosul.

(No. 11.)

Translation. *June 25, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that his Excellency Vali communicated to the Chaldean Bishops [illegible] by letter from the Minister of Justice that they should elect a [illegible] by the Patriarch but without the attendance of the Papal Delegate. The Patriarch sent a telegram to the Porte asserting [illegible] to elect a Patriarch at once, and again in the first instance [illegible] [illegible] the Papal Delegate at Mosul to work, not [illegible] but necessary first that the [illegible] should be [illegible] the Porte [illegible] Patriarch. The request was complied [illegible] to the Papal Delegate, but with the [illegible] Bishops would not make an election except in his presence, which was unsuccessful, according to the Archbishop's statement, and at the same time he stated that [illegible] for the [illegible] caused the Bishops to send a joint telegram to Constantinople representing that, as the election was a religious matter, they begged permission for the Delegate's presence and co-operation. An answer was received by the Vali from the Minister of Justice entirely prohibiting the Delegate's intervention, on the ground that such would be inconsistent with the policy of the Turkish Government. On receipt of the telegram his Excellency summoned, on last Monday, all the Bishops to the Seraï and informed them of the final orders, at the same time warning them not to address the said Ministry in the matter again, and he explained that the Minister would not receive any further Petition or application from them or from the acting Patriarch until a Patriarch had been elected and the election had been approved by the Porte. The Bishops returned disappointed to their homes, and informed the Delegate of the purport of the telegram. Thus, the election has been postponed until the Delegate obtains through the medium of the French Ambassador at Constantinople, permission for his participation in the election, or until Rome recedes from its decision.

Mahmud Aga, Commandant of the Police Battalion, brought there on last Thursday some of the chief robbers from the village of Mamuzeman, in the Dibk district, he having gone to that place with a force of zaptiehs and fought with the people of the village and killed two of them. These villagers besides being guilty of villany, robbery, and bloodshed, have not paid for the last five or six years the accumulations of a large sum of money due to the Government on account of such sovereign taxes, and have revolted against the Government. The men who were brought in by Mahmud Agha have all been [illegible]

(Signed) NIMROD RASSAM.

Inclosure 3 in No. 89.

Letter from the British Consular Agent at Mosul

(No. 12)
(Translation.)

July 10, 1900.

WITH reference to my letter No. 11 dated the 25th ultimo, I have to honour to report that yesterday the Latin Delegate with the Chaldean Bishops entered the Church of Meskanta (Mosul) when they [illegible] Mar Emmanuel, the Bishop of Seert, Patriarch, and entrenched [illegible] Thence he [illegible] a procession and [illegible] ceremony to the Patriarchal [illegible] with the permission of the local authorities, and addressed [illegible] for the Port. It is said, that when it reaches the Vali he will send it, he assures me, a telegram [illegible] to Constantinople. [illegible] to be sent [illegible] the result of this conference.

No. 90.

Sir N. O'Conor to Marquess of Salisbury (Received [illegible])

(No. 287. Confidential)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 19, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 285 of this day's date, I have to inclose herewith [illegible] to your Lordship's instructions, the Marquis de [illegible] at Erzeroum, giving [illegible] Upsoghatk, [illegible] the Seert [illegible] the Memorandum which [illegible] the Armenian Patriarch [illegible] the Imperial Government by Mgr. Mathieu [illegible] outrages which [illegible].

I spoke yesterday [illegible] Marquis de Leon [illegible] heretical churches, [illegible] the general danger of Europe [illegible] Theodosius [illegible] at once [illegible] number of Russian [illegible] who, at most, could only [illegible] inhabiting [illegible] insurrection by [illegible] even so much.

I showed [illegible] Excellency Count Mouravieff [illegible] and told him that I understood [illegible] that the letter [illegible] to the Ambassadors [illegible] in regard to the [illegible] given by Abdul Hamid to the Armenian Church [illegible] striking analogy to the [illegible] of the treaty of Berlin of 1878, [illegible] unfortunate Bosnia [illegible] the civilized world. The Patriarch, [illegible] of the Armenian people [illegible] such as the church, but it was the [illegible] passed [illegible] Turkey [illegible] Europe would have [illegible] recourse to [illegible] of the church were [illegible] of seventy persons, of whom [illegible] was a woman and the others [illegible] children. The [illegible] pretext was that [illegible] had been [illegible] and [illegible] Bishops [illegible] of the [illegible] that [illegible] of [illegible] were charged [illegible] unprovoked. It was [illegible] that a number of [illegible] was exchanged, but there was [illegible] to [illegible] result [illegible] by a number [illegible] over 200.

I said that I was [illegible] to point out [illegible] of this [illegible] for [illegible] measures, [illegible] of the Sultan, with a view to such [illegible] punishment [illegible] and I [illegible] suggested [illegible] others [illegible] similar outbreaks against Armenians [illegible] elsewhere.

[illegible] further [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] use of [illegible] weapons, and I had understood, [illegible] [illegible] stronger representations on this point, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Consuls [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] districts.

His Excellency [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Inclosure 2 in No. 90.

Consul Leah to Sir N. O'Conor

(No. 10.)

Erzeroum, July 30, 1900

SIR,

I REGRET to say that though his Excellency the Vali declines himself to believe on very without information, the statements concerning a renewal of massacres in the Talori district of the Sassun Caza, as reported to your Excellency in my preceding despatch of the 28th instant, have been confirmed to me from a variety of sources.

The authorities of Bitlis have professed to have discovered the presence of insurrectionary agents in the village of Spaghank and that village has accordingly been entirely, and the neighbouring villages of Eghgeh and Ishkor partially, destroyed.

From 160 to 500 villagers are said to have been massacred, though as very reliable that the first figures may be assumed to be approximate.

The village of Semal Sunnis, the Gheighuzan, and Shenkeh and Kaldesroved to Angus 1894 and 1895 by the Kurds, have been completely destroyed, the inhabitants having been massacred by the troops, and their property looted. Eighteen villages have been thus completely destroyed, and the inhabitants of the remaining villages have been reorganized and are now in process of extermination.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY H. LEAH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 90.

Memorandum by Lazare Petrovich

SPAGHANK est un Village Armenien de 150 maisons dans le district de Sassoun, pas très loin de Talvorik, ayant pour voisins des Kurdes montagnards, exploités en quelque sorte par les Kurdes nomades. L'année dernière le 31 Août 1899 une bande de Kurdes est venue de Khark, de Pekan, et autres villages environnants pour piller les Arméniens, sous le prétexte que le village de Spaghank était habité par des révolutionnaires. Les Arméniens se sont défendus par leurs propres moyens, ont repoussé les Kurdes, et ceux-ci ont perdu quatre hommes dans cette rencontre, quelques autres, blessés, sont morts plus tard. Les Arméniens ont eu sur les 300 combattants qu'ils avaient, 7 morts et 20 blessés.

Les autorités de Bitlis, qui n'ont pas voulu sévir contre les Kurdes, ont fait croire à Zekki Pacha, Commandant du 4me Corps d'armée, que le village de Spaghank était habité par des révolutionnaires Arméniens, et sur la présence de ces derniers, aussi bien que sur la force des Arméniens révolutionnaires, ont fait de fausses déclarations. Zekki Pacha, sans autre enquête, a envoyé contre les Arméniens de Spaghank, sous le commandement de Mouchir de Bitlis, sur la présence et sur la force des Arméniens révolutionnaires susdits, un corps de troupes régulières, composé de 3 bataillons d'infanterie, 2 escadrons de cavalerie, 2 canons de montagne, et 2 mitrailleuses. Les Kurdes se réunirent pour cette expédition au nombre de 2000 environ, sous les ordres de Bekir-Kurdoff et de Koursch, Chefs actuels des Kurdes de Pessoun et Sokhan, soldés tous les mois par Hussein Effendi Commissaire d'État pour les affaires kurdes. Zekki Pacha, Commandant du 4me Corps d'armée, ayant appris que les Arméniens de Spaghank étaient des révolutionnaires, a envoyé contre eux, sous le commandement de Mouchir de Bitlis, les troupes régulières susdites, et les Kurdes, qui ont pillé et brûlé tout le village, ont massacré tous les habitants, hommes, femmes, enfants, vieillards, malades, et ont violé les femmes et les filles. Les troupes régulières ont pris part à ces massacres, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons. Les Kurdes ont pillé et brûlé les villages de Eghgeh et Ishkor, et ont massacré tous les habitants qu'ils ont trouvés dans ces villages. Les troupes régulières ont pris part à ces massacres, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons. Les Kurdes ont pillé et brûlé les villages de Eghgeh et Ishkor, et ont massacré tous les habitants qu'ils ont trouvés dans ces villages. Les troupes régulières ont pris part à ces massacres, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons.

La présence d'une bande de révolutionnaires à Spaghank n'a d'autres bases que les assertions de Kurdes, l'opposition rencontrée étant la conséquence de la défense légitime contre l'agression des Kurdes, peut-être aussi cette fois les braves habitants de Spaghank auront repoussé l'agression s'ils avaient à faire contre les Kurdes seuls.

Le Notable Arménien, Magar, Ressoul Chef du village de Spaghank et qui avait été l'année passée à la tête des Arméniens contre les Kurdes, a été soigneusement recherché, et quand on a pas pu le saisir on a pris sa femme enceinte, enlevé d'abord le fœtus, et l'a ensuite longuement mercé coupé de ses seins.

Inclosure 4 in No. 90

Le Père Petros, Curé des Mélkites Catholiques Arméniens de Sassoun, à son Excellence Zekki Pacha, Commandant du 4me Corps d'armée à Erzeroum

EXCELLENCE,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que les environs de Sassoun ont été le théâtre d'une nouvelle boucherie de plus de 1000 chrétiens Arméniens. Les troupes régulières de Sassoun, M. Petros et moi-même, nous avons été présents à ces massacres. Les détails de ces horribles scènes sont trop longs à vous décrire.

Le 27 Juillet, le village de Spaghank, village Arménien, a été attaqué par des Kurdes. Il s'est produit un combat entre les Kurdes et les Arméniens, qui a duré environ trois heures. Les Arméniens, qui n'avaient pas plus de 25 fusils, ont repoussé les Kurdes. Ceux-ci ont perdu trois hommes sur place, et ont laissé quelques fusils. Les Arméniens ont eu un mort et deux blessés.

Le 29 Juillet, les troupes régulières, sous le commandement du Mouchir de Bitlis, sont arrivées à Spaghank. Le village était désert, tous les habitants s'étant réfugiés dans les villages environnants. Les troupes régulières ont pillé et brûlé le village, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons. Les troupes régulières ont pris part à ces massacres, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons.

De là, les troupes régulières, sous le commandement du Mouchir de Bitlis, sont arrivées à Eghgeh, village Arménien, situé à 2 heures de Spaghank. Le village était désert, tous les habitants s'étant réfugiés dans les villages environnants. Les troupes régulières ont pillé et brûlé le village, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons. Les troupes régulières ont pris part à ces massacres, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons.

Le 30 Juillet, les troupes régulières, sous le commandement du Mouchir de Bitlis, sont arrivées à Ishkor, village Arménien, situé à 3 heures de Spaghank. Le village était désert, tous les habitants s'étant réfugiés dans les villages environnants. Les troupes régulières ont pillé et brûlé le village, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons. Les troupes régulières ont pris part à ces massacres, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons.

Le 31 Juillet, les troupes régulières, sous le commandement du Mouchir de Bitlis, sont arrivées à Semal Sunnis, village Arménien, situé à 4 heures de Spaghank. Le village était désert, tous les habitants s'étant réfugiés dans les villages environnants. Les troupes régulières ont pillé et brûlé le village, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons. Les troupes régulières ont pris part à ces massacres, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons.

Le 1er Août, les troupes régulières, sous le commandement du Mouchir de Bitlis, sont arrivées à Gheighuzan, village Arménien, situé à 5 heures de Spaghank. Le village était désert, tous les habitants s'étant réfugiés dans les villages environnants. Les troupes régulières ont pillé et brûlé le village, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons. Les troupes régulières ont pris part à ces massacres, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons.

Le 2 Août, les troupes régulières, sous le commandement du Mouchir de Bitlis, sont arrivées à Shenkeh, village Arménien, situé à 6 heures de Spaghank. Le village était désert, tous les habitants s'étant réfugiés dans les villages environnants. Les troupes régulières ont pillé et brûlé le village, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons. Les troupes régulières ont pris part à ces massacres, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons.

Le 3 Août, les troupes régulières, sous le commandement du Mouchir de Bitlis, sont arrivées à Kaldes, village Arménien, situé à 7 heures de Spaghank. Le village était désert, tous les habitants s'étant réfugiés dans les villages environnants. Les troupes régulières ont pillé et brûlé le village, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons. Les troupes régulières ont pris part à ces massacres, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons.

Le 4 Août, les troupes régulières, sous le commandement du Mouchir de Bitlis, sont arrivées à Talvorik, village Arménien, situé à 8 heures de Spaghank. Le village était désert, tous les habitants s'étant réfugiés dans les villages environnants. Les troupes régulières ont pillé et brûlé le village, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons. Les troupes régulières ont pris part à ces massacres, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons.

Le 5 Août, les troupes régulières, sous le commandement du Mouchir de Bitlis, sont arrivées à Talvorik, village Arménien, situé à 8 heures de Spaghank. Le village était désert, tous les habitants s'étant réfugiés dans les villages environnants. Les troupes régulières ont pillé et brûlé le village, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons. Les troupes régulières ont pris part à ces massacres, et ont tué tous les blessés qu'elles ont trouvés dans les maisons.

No. 91.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic) P. *Constantinople, August 21, 1900.*

SPAGHANK massacre.

My telegram No. 756 of the 16th instant.

I have received the Sultan's thanks through the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs for the message of sympathy which I was instructed to address to His Majesty on the occasion of the massacre of Spaghank.

Mr. A. Blunt has been informed that the Porte will not object to the proposed visit of Mr. Vyvyan Herbert to Yemen, but that it would be desirable that the latter should not proceed to Sanaa, as the Turkish authorities are unable to guarantee the safety of Europeans in the Sanaa district.

Mr. A. Blunt has been informed that the Porte will not object to the proposed visit of Mr. Vyvyan Herbert to Yemen, but that it would be desirable that the latter should not proceed to Sanaa, as the Turkish authorities are unable to guarantee the safety of Europeans in the Sanaa district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 92.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 71.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 21, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Crete, reporting the circumstances which led to the recent massacre of Spaghanks.

Mr. A. Blunt has been informed that the Porte will not object to the proposed visit of Mr. Vyvyan Herbert to Yemen, but that it would be desirable that the latter should not proceed to Sanaa, as the Turkish authorities are unable to guarantee the safety of Europeans in the Sanaa district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 93.

Marquess of Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava.—(Received August 24.)

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres, le 23 août, 1900.

Mon Marquis,

POUR faire suite à ma note du 16 courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre sous ce pli la traduction d'un télégramme que Son Excellence Tewfik Pacha vient de m'adresser au sujet des événements récents de Spaghanks.

Vous trouverez ci-joint, Mylord, la traduction d'un télégramme que Son Excellence Tewfik Pacha vient de m'adresser au sujet des événements récents de Spaghanks.

Les premières nouvelles de ces événements ont été données par les journaux européens, qui ont publié des télégrammes de Canée, annonçant que les troupes européennes avaient débarqué à Spaghanks, et que les Turcs avaient attaqué les troupes européennes

inquiry made into the foregoing irregularities. The local authorities might well have been entrusted with the inquiry, as they were not involved, and might be counted upon to give an impartial account of the affair, but His Majesty has nevertheless decided to send a Special Commission, with a competent judicial, political and military officials. The result of the inquiry will then be made known and if the facts were as stated the guilty will be punished. His Majesty disapproves of any oppression of one class or race by the other, and is anxious to assure the right of all his subjects to protection.

These are the instructions which I am to convey to you, and I trust that you will be able to say that the steps taken by the Special Commission appear to me to be such as the circumstances of the case call for, and are likely to allay the excitement which has existed among the Christian population of Asia Minor, and to restore the hopes of an improvement in the condition of the Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 97.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 300.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 27, 1900.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 7 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that the Master of Pera Missions Notre Dame de Sion has received from the Sultan an assurance to the following effect:—

The Commission, which will leave Constantinople at Sunset will leave as soon as it is ready. It is the intention of Mr. Post, Commandant at Batha, who was in command of the troops, has been dismissed, and should the Commission report that he or others are guilty, they will be brought before the tribunals of the country.

His Majesty trusts that I will report the above to Her Majesty's Government, by telegraph, as a proof of his sincere desire to take measures to preserve order and tranquillity in the Empire, and of the good intentions of the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 98.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Hamid Bey.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 27, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day's instant, communicating what you have received from your Government in regard to the report that a massacre of Armenians had taken place at Sasun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 99.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

No. 176.)
Foreign Office, July 30, 1900.

I HAVE to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have received with satisfaction your despatch No. 285 of the 24th instant, reporting the steps taken by the Ottoman Government to ensure the safety of the Christian population of Asia Minor, and to restore confidence in the intentions of the Imperial Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 100.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 341.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August 31, 1900.*

MAJOR MAUNSELL, Vice-Consul at Van, telegraphs that he was attacked by Kurds [illegible] hills, and [illegible] of his party, with loss of his baggage. His Excellency has sent [illegible]

Orders have been telegraphed to the Porte [illegible] to the Vali to punish the offenders and restore the baggage.

No. 101.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 301.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 24, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 281 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a translation of a note which has been received from the Sublime Porte, stating that the Ottoman authorities have received from the British Consular Agent at Mush the subjoined information respecting the recent massacre of Armenians in the Sasun district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Enclosure in No. 101.

Memorandum to Lord Currie, Constantinople.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Yildiz, July 21, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that after the Bishop of Smyrna was elected Patriarch by the Christian Bishops, as reported in my despatch No. 13, dated the 10th instant, they fixed the following Sunday for his consecration. On Saturday evening, the day previous, his Excellency the Vali sent an order to the Bishops not to perform the ceremony, but they paid no attention. On Sunday morning the necessary arrangements for the consecration had been made, and the Bishops in their vestments, with the Latin Delegate and the French Consul-General, entered the church of Messrs. Mavrudi. Meanwhile some respectable members of the community tried to prevent the Bishops from carrying out the intended proceedings, but this was against the orders the Government had issued, and came to the knowledge of the community. Letters the Bishops had left behind for forwarding to the various parishes of the community prevented the consecration, recalling to the churches [illegible] Tuesday) all the Bishops, the French Consul, and the Delegate met in the same church, and consecrated Mgr. Emanuel with the cutting the Porte's permission, but with the assistance of the French Ambassador at Constantinople. After the consecration a telegram from the Grand Vizier reached his Excellency, solemnly [illegible] to prevent the assembling of the Bishops for the purpose of the election, upon which the Vali summoned the Bishops to his house, and [illegible] order. I do not know what Bishop [illegible] to inform your Excellency thereof.

It [illegible] Majesty the Sultan [illegible] of this decision [illegible] Derdakir for the [illegible] Society [illegible] Ecclesiastical Delegate [illegible] Saint [illegible] Bishop [illegible] Vezirs [illegible] Vezirs [illegible] Vezirs

...ress of engineers by the Hejaz. The total income collected at Kerkook is £T 1,50... and locally £T 2,500 will be collected at Mosul ... its provinces, as all the Government ... taxes are to contribute one month's pay to assist the merchants and the poor people, according to their means.

(Signed) MAHMUD HASSAM.

No. 102.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received ...)

(No. 305.)
My Lord, *Therapia, ... 7, 1900.*

... my despatch No. 290 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ... informed ... Ilydes of the Sublime Porte has ... decided to send a Commission to ... the circumstances ... to recent excesses at Spagli...k.

The Commission ... composed ... Ismail Hakki ... Bey, ... Judge, ... as I am at present ... instructions ... It consists ... secretary of Bureau ... Pasha, ... Mutessarif ... Arabkir, ... Secretary.

... to Mehmed ... Bey ... meeting ... the ... of Zeitoun ... Vali ... execution of ... Bey, ... Bey ... Bey ... angry ... his ... prisoners ... among the 700 ... troops ... station.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 103.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 307.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 28, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 249 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a ... which, after ... with ... I have addressed ... to Acting Consul at Mosul ... inquiry ... from him as to what ... has to be ... with the ... of Sheikh ...

Similar instructions have been sent ... to Consular Agents ... Consulate at Aleppo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Sir N. O'Conor to Acting Consul Fatunga.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 28, 1900.*

You ... should ... concert with ... colleagues ... Assyrian ... and ... inscriptions, ... Embassy ... Sheikh ... to ... himself ... Should ... be ... Mosul. You ... to ... Mosul ... Consular ... Consul ... Consular ... Secretary ... Consulate.

No. 104.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 312.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 1, 1900.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 54 of the 13th ultimo I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting in detail the recent attack made upon him and his party by Kurds near Ess...

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Major Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 33.)
Sir, *Van, August 14, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you, with your Excellency's permission, I left recently for Sert...k but I hear at the last moment ... was ... to visit ... a few days ... to see Mr. Browne at Julamerk.

Knowing that along the direct line of road the district Kurds were ... among themselves, I determined to make ... to the south-west reaching Julamerk by another way.

On the 8th August I passed through ... pass of the ... Bet-es-Shebab, which I ... as a ... gap, ... Kurdish ... withdrawn a few yards back, the ... district ... to be under the control of Government, but the same might be said of much of the hill country south of the Bohtan River.

Towards ... I halted near ... tents of the Zeibeki Kurds, whom I found shortly see... at ... of plunderers ready to attack any one ... came in their way.

One of the ... Kurds, Kekeli by name, seized my rifle, lying ... the ground, near my Dragoman, who quickly took it away from him.

It was then fully explained to them that I was the English Consul, &c., and he then expressed contrition, ... very ... but I still had ... of his conduct.

Part of his conversation may give a clue to reasons of the subsequent attack. He said:

"A few years ago there was a Kurdish ... Bet-es-Shebab but he was withdrawn, and there is no Government here now, and we can do what we like.

"Last year we ... a large ... of sheep from Tiari Christians, they appealed to your English Government, and I found ... nothing to keep them."

This last was in allusion to generally accepted idea that the English are the protectors of the Nestorians ... owing partly to Mr. Browne ... in Kochannes.

Our party consisted of three ...aptiehs, dragoman, two ...cavasses, myself, with ... and ... &c. Besides the rifles of three ...aptiehs I had two Lee-Metford cavalry carbines.

We remained on the watch all night expecting an attack, as I hear that in addition to these ... there were other ... of the Gavdan and Zeibeki ... short distance away, the two tribes being closely allied.

An attempted attack was made by some twenty men coming out of the tents close by, but at being ... ation, light, and seeing us well prepared, they retired.

When loading ... morning a rifle was stolen from a ...aptieh, who had rested ... on a stone while ... turned to attend to his horse, the ... disappearing in a moment down a ... ravine.

The ... were now ... set to start until the rifle was found. ... one of their number returned from the pursuit ... the whole proceeding ... recovered ... to cause delay and enable them to ... their plans for attack. ... therefore started without guides, taking ... certain ... which appeared to lie in the required general direction. The road towards Julamerk ... at which I had been enquiring, lay in a ... slightly different direction, and I ... subsequently that the ... along it were ... out, and we could not possibly have ... through in safety.

We had not gone far when I noticed that the crest of a rocky hill to my right was

occupied by twenty-five men, who opened fire and then began to descend towards us, while another band, led by Kokel, followed us up from the tents we had just left.

By taking up a position on the crest of the pass I was able to cover the passage of the baggage in safety, and gain time for it to get towards another small position in rear.

But at this moment, my Dragoman, M. Sbordoni, who was using the other carbine, was wounded by a bullet through the fleshy part of the right upper arm, and rendered unable to continue firing.

The time lost in getting him on his horse and the rough nature of the ground gave the Kurds opportunity to close up, and we were all glad to retire to the second position a little beyond the pass, the baggage and the armed.

We gained the crest and commenced to cover the retreat of the baggage, when the muleteers and servants broke and fled, leaving the animals standing in a small basin about 100 yards in rear of my position, while the Kurds lined the hills on the far side. The zaptiehs were absolutely useless and disappeared to some distance, firing aimlessly therefrom.

I remained, with my cavass, Bekir, who supported me well, and some with my magazine carbine could prevent the Kurds descending to get at the baggage, and shot two who made the attempt.

This lasted for about three minutes, and the cavass, Bekir, dismounted and fired the remaining shots in the magazine, till I saw the Kurds round the far side of the basin. I would not permit him to waste shots, as we would certainly have been killed at such short range.

[illegible] my horse [illegible] was assisting M. Sbordoni [illegible] getting himself [illegible]. The Kurds were [illegible] and [illegible] their backs. I also [illegible] about sunset, and I was able, [illegible] to collect [illegible] and a [illegible] party [illegible] the way [illegible] and the Kurds [illegible] and [illegible] M. Sbordoni, [illegible] sang [illegible] his horse [illegible] on [illegible] ground [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] threw down his [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible].

We continued [illegible] and [illegible] Agha, the Chief of the Hastesh Kurds, with whom I was [illegible] to [illegible] troops assisting me to arrange a quarrel with his brother, Mohammad Agha.

I estimate that the number of attacking Kurds was about 100 of both Gavdan and Zshirki, as their tents were not far from each other, and undoubtedly messengers were sent to all neighbouring tents to join in a general attack. The names of the ringleaders whom I can personally recognize are:—

Kokel
Sino Baraya
Chon Agha
} all of Zshirki tribe.

Also, the following names were given me by Hajo Agha as the chief men of the Gavdan tents closest to the place of attack:—

Ubaid Agha, Chief of Gavdan.
Shanbaz
Tatar
Kelash
} his sons.
Kher Jawsun
Derbaz Ali
Ismail Ako Kelo
Hamo Shkette
Bruan Jusho
} the Gavdan Kurds.

I have [illegible] that [illegible] twelve be brought [illegible] here as prisoners, and that a [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible].

The Vali [illegible] has not [illegible] to the [illegible]. I have been [illegible] that the [illegible] of Mosul [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

the Turks. It appears, however from reports received from Her Majesty's Consul at Tabriz that disorders have been growing for some time, and that the Persian authorities have not been able to take the necessary precautions.

His Excellency informed me that the Persian Government would send an official to the frontier to confer with the Turkish authorities and arrange for an enquiry. He asked me to communicate with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, expressing the hope that Her Majesty's Government would be able to use their influence with the Porte in order to hasten the settlement. This question he believed to be considered tropical.

I communicated to the Foreign Office by Sir N. O'Conor's cypher telegram from Therapia of the 20th July the Marquess of Dufferin's report that a Persian territory of about [illegible] square miles with two villages had been destroyed by the Soorian opposite Merdin, about 40 miles east of Bagdad. His Excellency requested that a copy might be sent to the British Government, which he would instruct to bring the matter before the Russian Government, which was communicated to the Russian Embassy.

On the 29th July the Marquess of Dufferin sent to inform me that he had been received of an incursion of Persian territory of a great number of [illegible] with two guns, who had destroyed several Soorian opposite Merdin, about 40 miles east of Bagdad. His Excellency requested that a copy might be sent to the British Government, which he would instruct to bring the matter before the Russian Government, which was communicated to the Russian Embassy.

I called on the Vice-Consul for [illegible] to ascertain his request to Her Majesty's Minister [illegible] about [illegible] which, as he was informed, with [illegible] and Persian to obey [illegible] received a cross [illegible] and Persian to obey [illegible].

I informed him I [illegible] that such mode [illegible] precautions. I spoke in the same [illegible] he was well [illegible] would only ignore [illegible] from the [illegible] [illegible] I informed him I [illegible] from Sir N. O'Conor [illegible] appreciated [illegible] the Persian Government [illegible].

His Excellency protested that [illegible] a gorgeous style [illegible].

I have since received from Consul Keshakoff [illegible] to consult him as to these orders, and that the Commander-in-Chief [illegible] to military measures. The Turkish Minister [illegible] reason why military measures have not been taken is that the Persian Government will not incur the necessary [illegible] of the frontier. He assured me that unless the frontier was kept in order the Turkish Government would be obliged to take [illegible] this question will [illegible] slightly serious aspect.

I saw the Mushir-ed-Dowleh to-day which [illegible] official to the frontier with an escort to report on the question and to confer with a Turkish Delegate. I observed that as long as the troops on the Persian frontier were not kept under the control of regular [illegible] always the fear of an outbreak. He said the Turks could [illegible] telegraph to Constantinople to send troops to the frontier with stringent instructions to maintain order.

Unless these troops [illegible] there is no [illegible] local [illegible].

I have spoken to my French colleague on the subject of the disputes that have arisen between the Governors of the two. It was likely that [illegible] Kurdish frontier, as he was about to know that what [illegible] Kurdish [illegible] the Persian [illegible] He [illegible] with the Governor and [illegible].

What the final [illegible] Turkish territory where [illegible] the Soorian [illegible].

In the present state of relations between Persia and Russia [illegible].

[illegible] Persians will [illegible] assistance of Russian troops or officers. [illegible] the 23rd [illegible] October, when the [illegible] Persians had not been [illegible] Persian [illegible] troops [illegible] aggressors over the frontier, it is not [illegible] some form or other foreign intervention [illegible].

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Précis of Report of Governor of Kermanshah to the Persian Government and from Daoud Khan to the Governor.

SOORIAN is a village in Persian territory opposite Merdin which latter belongs to Turkey. The winter quarters are between Soorian and Merdin, and a dispute arose between the Turkish [illegible] who [illegible] destroyed the village and [illegible].

The Governor of Bagdad [illegible] represented the Chief of the Khalkali [illegible] to the Persian [illegible] but on the arrival of Soorian [illegible] had been [illegible] and [illegible] arrived [illegible] and [illegible] to curb [illegible] Turkish [illegible] During [illegible] Persians were fired on, [illegible] Daoud Khan [illegible] the Turks, [illegible] took refuge in Merdin. After [illegible] orders from the Governor [illegible] and returned [illegible].

Now [illegible] the Turkish [illegible] and this has caused [illegible] excitement.

Note.—The Turkish Embassy states that the right [illegible] to the water of the Sarma River, that they were [illegible] of this right, and accordingly took steps to break the sluices which prevented the flow of water to their land.

The frontier has not yet been fixed, and it is [illegible] that the ownership of Sarma is really still undetermined, and may be regarded as neutral territory.

No. 105.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury. (*Received September 17.*)

(No. 321)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 8, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 305 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that according to telegrams which have been received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, which has been confirmed by a telegram from Major Maunsell's consular [illegible] that the number of killed at Spagank has been as I had surmised, considerably exaggerated, and that it does not exceed fourteen.

Major Maunsell, who is now [illegible] on the [illegible] to reliable information. It is understood that Russian Vice-Consul, who is now [illegible] to within a short distance of Sergi [illegible] several [illegible].

The matter will no doubt be shortly known through the Armenian Patriarch and the Russian Delegate, [illegible] who is strongly spoken of in different quarters. I shall not fail to inform your Lordship of any further information that reaches me.

I suggested to Sir to the Russian Ambassador that two Vice-Consuls should proceed to Spagank simultaneously with Ertor Pasha, as the Russian Vice-Consul had already been on his way to Spagank when I was obliged to withdraw my acceptance of Major Maunsell's offer, but I did not think it necessary or desirable to instruct Major Maunsell to go there alone.

In making this suggestion to the Russian Ambassador, who assured me that if it had been made before his Consul started on his recent journey, he would have been very glad to agree, I was prompted by a desire to show the interest taken by both Embassies in matters of this kind, in the hope of conducing generally to the protection of the Armenian population, while at the same time showing the Ottoman Government the interest taken in Armenian proceedings by the Russians as well as by Her Majesty's Government.

I have &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 111.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury. (*Received September 17.*)

(No. 324.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 11, 1900.*

With reference to previous correspondence respecting the recent attack by Kurds on Major Maunsell's escort, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of two despatches from Major Maunsell containing details of the punishment inflicted by the Turkish authorities on the aggressors.

As I explained to your Lordship in my telegram of the 4th instant, there seems to be no doubt that the Kurds who attacked Major Maunsell's escort were actuated by religious fanaticism, and that the Armenian villagers were innocent of any provocation. The Kurds, however, appear to have had a grudge against the Armenians, and to have seized the opportunity afforded by the presence of the Turkish troops to attack them.

Several Kurdish leaders and their retainers have been arrested by the Turkish authorities, and it is hoped that the punishment inflicted on them will have a salutary effect.

I am glad to be able to add that, in spite of the unfortunate incident which occurred, Major Maunsell's journey has, on the whole, been successful, and that the explorations which he was instructed to make have given him a good deal of interesting information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Major Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 53.)
Sir, *Van, August 21, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my despatch No. 32 of the 14th August, that a squadron of cavalry under the command of a Colonel left Van for the scene of the attack on the 15th instant.

They were said to be 150 strong, from a post at Kasan, in Erzerum, making a total of 250 soldiers which might be considered disposable for this small force.

They have received stringent orders from the Commandant here and also from Zekki Pasha, the Mushir at Erzerum.

The Kaimakam of the Khosab Caza has also been sent to the scene of the attack to assist in capturing the persons implicated.

No news has yet arrived here of any results, but the district is some distance from telegraphic communication.

Mr. Shardlow's wounds are gradually healing.

I have, &c.
Sir N. O'Conor. F. R. MAUNSELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

Major Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor, No. 27. August 27, 1900.

Not printed. (Foreign Office.)

No. 111.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 201.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 20, 1900.*

I HAVE received Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 321 of the 8th instant relative to the reported massacre of Armenians at Spaghank.

His Excellency's action in the matter, and his communications to the Russian Ambassador on the subject, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 112.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury. (*Received September 21.*)

(No. 378.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 10, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship's Government, a translation of a Press Report published in the Stamboul newspaper of the 8th instant, containing reports of the massacre of Armenians at Spaghank by the Kurds.

According to these reports, the Imperial troops under the command of the Governor of Bitlis, the General of Division at Mush, and the Mutessarif of Sassun, have destroyed as many as 300 people, men, women, and children, inhabitants of the Armenian village of Spaghank in the Sassun district, it was said that the said village was burnt, and that the Kurds united with the soldiers and that they attacked and sacked three other villages in that district.

It was alleged that the despatch of troops to that village was made with the object of packing a quarrel. A real necessity is now felt to give a formal *démenti* to these statements and to establish the truth. It is desirable that measures should be taken for the guarantee of peace in these districts, and that it should be ascertained that there is no reason for the usual Armenian cry of oppression. Under the auspices of His Majesty the Sultan, the welfare and happiness of his subjects, irrespective of race and creed, have been the object of his constant solicitude, and he has bestowed numerous favours, which have called forth the loyal sentiments of his subjects. Under these circumstances, the said statements require confirmation.

We correspondents consider that the soldiers were sent with the aim to punish the Kurds who had committed depredations and plundered the Armenians, but some way or other they have failed to punish the brigands, and have gone to attack the peaceful Armenians of Spaghank. The soldiers do not appear to have been sent with the intention of punishing the Kurds, but rather to assist them in their attack on the Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112.

Extract from the Inhabitants of the District of Sassun.

(Translation.)

A REUTER Agency telegram has been published in some of the papers under the heading of Armenian massacres. It has also been written that the Imperial troops under the command of the Governor of Bitlis, the General of Division at Mush, has destroyed as many as 300 people, men, women, and children, inhabitants of the Armenian village of Spaghank in the Sassun district, it was said that the said village was burnt, and that the Kurds united with the soldiers and that they attacked and sacked three other villages in that district.

It was alleged that the despatch of troops to that village was made with the object of packing a quarrel. A real necessity is now felt to give a formal *démenti* to these statements and to establish the truth. It is desirable that measures should be taken for the guarantee of peace in these districts, and that it should be ascertained that there is no reason for the usual Armenian cry of oppression. Under the auspices of His Majesty the Sultan, the welfare and happiness of his subjects, irrespective of race and creed, have been the object of his constant solicitude, and he has bestowed numerous favours, which have called forth the loyal sentiments of his subjects. Under these circumstances, the said statements require confirmation.

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[illegible] Bishop of Monstar.
Bishop of Nerkhi
Priest of Mush
Priest of Talori
Bishop of Sert
Abbot of Bitlis
Prior of the Village of Karanz, &c.

August 3 (16), 1316 (1900).

[illegible]

Inclosure 2 in No. 112

Consul Lamb to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 12)
Sir, *Erzeroum, September* 1, 1900

WITH reference to the reports of massacre at Spaghank I have the honour to inform your Excellency that M. Tumansky, the Russian Vice-Consul at Van arrived in Bitlis from the 22nd ultimo, in pursuance of the following order for the erection of Sasun, being almost immediately followed by the Vali of Bitlis.

Before leaving the city, however, the latter favoured me with a visit, when I became aware that the most prominent Armenians in Bitlis were concerned in getting signatures to a Mahzar declaring all rumours of massacres in the district reported to be false. On the opposite page they had appended the seals of the Vali, who ordered horses to be in readiness for the following morning, when I was informed that they intended proceeding to Sasun. Not being convinced of the accuracy of this Mahzar, I myself determined to proceed to the spot, that the escort might be witness of the truth. The Armenians at Bitlis would prevail upon me not to go, as they unanimously elected to send a deputation with the Vali, which has doubtless, before now, reported to Constantinople [illegible]

Several letters which I received from Armenians at Mush, Sasun, and elsewhere, informed me that it was proved extremely difficult for the Armenians to [illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

No. 113

Sir A. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 24,)

(No. 332.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 18, 1900.

WITH reference to Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 321 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a report from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting that the Armenians, relying upon assurances received from Bitlis, had reported that of a general massacre. Special enquiries had, accordingly, been made, and it was ascertained that Major Martin's statement was correct, and that the reports were due to the assertions of a few Armenians, who had fled to Mush and Bitlis.

Sir N. O'Conor will see that Vice-Consul [illegible] went to the foot of the Sasun mountains, where the alleged massacre is reported to have taken place, but was unable to obtain any confirmation of the story.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 113

Major Martin to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 38)
Sir, *Van, September* 1, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report that since my last despatch I have received reports from Bitlis and Mush that troops had been sent to Sasun with Ali Pasha, the Muntefik Commandant, to punish a band of revolutionists, and I became anxious, as the last letters from the latter had been addressed from Mush.

At the same time from trustworthy sources from Bitlis I learnt that the affair was a general massacre, involving the slaughter of 200 persons, women and children included, and the destruction of five villages.

I made several enquiries among Armenians and from other sources here, but I could find no confirmation of the story of a massacre, but they said they had heard that a band of revolutionaries had been killed near Mush. Several Armenians had received letters from Mush, and if anything serious had happened they certainly would have heard of it, and would not have scrupled to tell me of it.

My Russian colleague left a short time ago for a visit to Bitlis and Sasun, and returned yesterday. He tells me that, though at Sasun, he could find no confirmation whatever of a massacre having taken place. He gave me full details of his journey, and we carefully examined Spaghank, where the revolutionists had fled for refuge and were exterminated.

It appears that seven of them were traced there, and when attacked took refuge in the church, from which they fired on the troops, by which they were eventually killed. Spaghank altogether contains only six houses.

He tells me that on passing through the Mush Plain he continued to receive circumstantial reports of a massacre from the Armenians, and even after he had visited Spaghank they still affirmed that a great massacre had taken place there.

Last year Lynch, Bliss and Mush under exactly similar circumstances when some revolutionists were destroyed at Zarn.

In Bitlis I found the entire district deserted, the villages were destroyed, and Mr. Cory's employés at Sasun [illegible] Mush was exterminated.

At Lynch's Mush and Zarn, I found no massacre had taken place, and the reports to be as utterly untrustworthy.

Lynch later I had left Zarn the Armenians attempted to insist on a massacre having occurred there.

I therefore hesitated to accept the present stories of massacre at Sasun without a full confirmation, but I shall submit report to your Excellency on the subject.

I will be privately [illegible] Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum [illegible] of the result of my enquiries here.

I had the honour of informing your Excellency of the circumstance of the above by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL.

P.S.—I may mention also that A. Pasha is an officer exceptionally impartial to Christians, as instanced by his quelling by his personal exertions what might have developed into a serious massacre at Baltsa in 1898.

He had been promoted before this correct to the rank of Ferik or Lieutenant-General, and as his command at Janina belongs to the First Division of Laws (Major-General), he has now left for Constantinople, via Prevesa, Brindisi, to take up some important command.

Said Bey has been appointed Governor to replace him, but as yet no such appointment has been notified to Consuls.

F. R. M.

No. [illegible]

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury (received [illegible])

(No. 334)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 27, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a report addressed to me by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Janina respecting the circumstances of Hilmi Vefik Effendi's death, and I will not trouble your Lordship with a detailed account of the way in which he met his death, as Mr. Abela, the Acting British Vice-Consul at Janina, describes it in his report. Mr. Abela states that he has brought the matter to the notice of the Vali of the province, and that he has every reason to believe that, speedily, will take the necessary steps for the punishment of the assassins; and, in writing the letter to the Vali, Mr. Abela has acted in the manner I have therefore thought it unnecessary to address any remonstrance to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Acting Vice-Consul Heathcote to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 61.)
Sir, *Beirut, September 13, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on the night of the 30th ultimo a disturbance occurred at Ghazir between some native Christians and the Turkish police and soldiers.

It appears that the German Vice-Consul had requested that natives should be prevented from walking about the German Colony and the quay built for the Emperor's visit during the night. A few days earlier the Chief of Police had turned away some native Christians from the quay and had assaulted one of them, and in revenge for this a number of persons attacked the Chief of Police and five gendarmes on the night of the 30th.

The police took refuge in the German Hotel which was stoned by the Christians, two gendarmes being injured. Shots were fired, apparently without result. The assailants were finally driven off by the arrival of reinforcements from the town.

The German Consul-General has since demanded the execution of the attackers of the hotel and other measures, and has pursued the subject [illegible]

[illegible]

British Vice-Consulate, where [illegible] and, the protests of his male servants they forced their way [illegible] and wounded the servant; they found no one in the premises, where, as Mr. Abela reports, they remained for half-an-hour.

Mr. Abela applied to the Commandant, who at first refused to believe him, but afterwards sent [illegible] to the rooms, where [illegible] as he asserted.

On receipt of [illegible] Mr. Abela immediately brought the matter to the Vali's notice, [illegible] ordered Colonel Yahya Bey Stamfu, second in command of the [illegible] to proceed to Janina to investigate the two cases [illegible] object of Mr. Abela's demand. Yahya Bey sailed on the 24th September.

Mr. Abela [illegible] has taken every measure with him to obtain the Consulate's [illegible] and, I have ordered his [illegible] Mr. Abela's conduct.

On the 26th September, by instructions from Constantinople, the Vali suspended [illegible] which [illegible] and [illegible] pending [illegible]

[illegible] was slightly hurt [illegible] having a Bashi [illegible] Mr. Abela [illegible] the [illegible] of Mr. Abela [illegible] know [illegible] the [illegible] Mr. Abela [illegible] Consulate [illegible] Consular [illegible] Consulate [illegible] Consular [illegible] Consulate [illegible] Consular

[illegible]

No. 116

Mr de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 340)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 26, 1900.

WITH reference to Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. [illegible] of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van regarding the recovery of the baggage animals and most of the baggage of which he had been robbed by the Kurds.

Major Maunsell says that the Vali promises to refund the value of the deficiencies which still remain and amounting to £T 170. He suggests that an indemnity of £T 200 should be obtained from the Turkish Government on account of the Dragoman who was wounded, and that the two cavasses should receive some reward from Her Majesty's Government. A fee of £T 20 is also due to Dr. Ussher for attendance on Mr. Shannon.

I shall await your Lordship's instructions before acting on the above suggestions. On the one hand it may be held, perhaps, that a Consular officer should not be attacked with impunity by Kurdish robbers, but on the other hand, apart from the Government which professes to keep the peace in those remote districts, the case of Mr. Consul Page, like that of Colonel Chermside, Mr. Phillott, and Mr. Consul Barker, in Asia Minor, and of the recent Turkish outrages in the Lebanon, shows that Consular officers are not always safe in the interior, and that Mr. Consul Graves was not the only Consular officer who was robbed by Kurds in the neighbourhood of Van. Mr. Consul Devey, who was struck by a stone and severely injured by the Persian Kurds, has been awarded by Her Majesty's Government a sum of £T 100 as compensation for his injuries, and the Persian Government have also paid compensation to the Persian Kurds who were robbed of their property by the Persian Kurds. The Vali of Van was reported to have recovered from the Persian Kurds the property which they had stolen from the Persian Kurds, and to have returned it to the Persian Kurds. The Persian Kurds were also reported to have returned the property which they had stolen from the Persian Kurds to the Persian Kurds. The Persian Kurds were also reported to have returned the property which they had stolen from the Persian Kurds to the Persian Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN

was to rely on Germany in the case of the recent assault on Dr. Belck near Van, but has not yet been paid.

There are, however, circumstances connected with the attack on Major Maunsell which cause me to hesitate to express an opinion in favour of demanding any considerable indemnity. Major Maunsell's despatches testify to the zeal and energy displayed by the Turkish authorities, civil and military, in actively pursuing the marauders, with the result that pack animals have been recovered with most of the booty that eight of the ringleaders are on their way to Van for trial, and that the Vali has promised to make good the remaining losses. Her Majesty's Ambassador has suggested, in two despatches, Nos. 293 and 324 of the 16th August and 11th September respectively, that the Ottoman Ambassador should receive an expression of your Lordship's thanks for the prompt action taken. Under these circumstances, it would appear premature to exact what would be regarded as a fine. It would also be borne in mind that the Vice-Consul was travelling with an escort of only three zaptiehs in a wild district from which the Kaimakam and the Commandant had withdrawn their escort, and that the Government had thus given up the attempt to exercise any direct control.

If any sum be demanded, it should be, I think, for compensation for the wounded Dragoman, as, indeed, Major Maunsell suggests. The wound was in the fleshy part of the arm and required the removal of a piece of bone. I am unable to form any opinion as to the amount which Your Lordship might properly ask that £T 50 would suffice, but it would be good to have received would be a matter of discussion. If Mr. Rose considers that a demand for compensation should be made, I shall be glad to be informed whether any rate maximum is prescribed by the Ottoman Code in cases of personal injury, or any assessment generally adopted. It should, I may add, be borne in mind that the Turkish Government should be made to understand that our Consuls must be protected wherever they may be residing at times, though it was not the case in the present instance, they are obliged, in the discharge of their duties, to pass through disturbed districts.

As regards Major Maunsell's proposal that the two cavasses should receive a gratuity out of British public funds, I venture to ask whether your Lordship would wish that a small present, say, £T 5 each, should be made to them as a mark of your appreciation of the contrast afforded by the courageous conduct of the cavasses as compared with the zaptiehs, who left their charge to the Turks at the first shot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN

Inclosure in No. 116.

Major Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 39)
Sir,

Van, September 21, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report that the baggage animals and most of the baggage stolen by Kurds in the recent attack have been recaptured and brought on here.

A number of small articles are still deficient.

My large tent was cut up into fragments, suitable for division among various members of the tribe, and is consequently useless.

Brass buttons were removed from my cavass' coat, under the impression they were gold, and some brass screws from my sextant, apparently under the same impression.

I have forwarded to the Vali a list of deficiencies, amounting to £T 176, which he promises to refund.

One of the baggage animals died, and the others were much exhausted through want of food.

The Kotoosh Kaimakam, Emad Bey, was early on the scene and managed to recover the baggage before it was divided among the marauders, but was unable then to capture the ringleaders, a force with him was too small.

The Gavdar tribe, under Dervish Agha, were the first to submit to Government, and do not appear to have participated in the attack, although I have not heard the final decision of the inquiry into the case yet.

The Zekiriez, who were the real culprits, held out strongly in various rocky positions, and also introduced the Mankhorai, another turbulent robber tribe close by,

to join in but the matter drew to a conclusion before any reinforcements to the troops.

Two sections of the Zsamh, who had refused to submit, gave in their submission, one section, with the ringleaders of the attack, still holding out.

These were pursued through a very rocky, difficult country across as far as Anan'a, where they finally gave in their submission.

No mention is made of the exact number of Kurds killed in this encounter, but it is stated the losses were severe.

Eight of the leaders, accomplices in the attack on my caravan, were captured, and are now under the watch of Vali, and in addition to the twenty troops stationed

The Government also levies seven years' arrears of taxes from these tribes, and have seized a large number of sheep, mules, &c.

Shaik Ajlan, Kurds, Chief of the Mangass, has been arrested by the Vali of Van

Mangass, go I have from [illegible] proposed to the Shaik that the [illegible] should be stationed with a view to [illegible] to assist the Government in bringing to justice the murderers of Mr. Shearman, and to secure the return of the property stolen from the caravan.

Vogel, Chief of the Kurds, who was also concerned in the attack on my caravan, is still at large.

Shortly after the Kurds had been attacked by the troops, the Kurds living in the district immediately to the north of Van, and who had been giving trouble, were also attacked by the troops, and many of them killed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP MAYNE, Lt.-Col.

No. 117.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Spring-Rice.

(No. 67.)

Foreign Office, October 1, 1900.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 84 of the 21st August, reporting on the Jastarbinches which have lately occurred on the Turco-Persian frontier, and the inability of the Persian Government to control and punish the offenders.

I approve the line you have taken in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 118.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Foreign Office, October 1, 1900.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to call the attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the fact that the Turkish authorities have established a custom-house at [illegible] on the Turco-Egyptian frontier, and have subjected to [illegible] goods passing between Egypt and [illegible]

The Turkish Government [illegible] has also been receiving at Akaba [illegible] Cyprus, have imported [illegible] into Egypt from [illegible] Akaba, and [illegible] the first place [illegible] Moreover, [illegible] and [illegible]

I am to request that Lord Lansdowne will move [illegible] to be taken [illegible] with the Turkish [illegible]

I am to suggest that the High Commissioner of Cyprus should be instructed by telegraph to inquire into the facts stated in this report, and to take such steps as may be possible to prevent any such attempts to raise customs revenue in Turkey.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. H. SANDERSON.

No. 119.

The Marquess of Salisbury to M. de Bunsen.

(No. 209.)

Foreign Office, October 5, 1900.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 240, enclosing a note from the Austrian Embassy, relative to the [illegible] Austrian Railway Company [illegible] intervention of Her Majesty's Embassy with the Ottoman Government in order to secure the [illegible] Company, which is done [illegible] the new Law of Concessions.

You may inform the Austrian Ambassador that Her Majesty's Railway Company has approved [illegible]

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 120.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office. (Received October 8.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, a copy of a despatch from the Governor of the Leeward Islands, with enclosures, on the subject of the [illegible] Dominica, and to request that you will move the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to [illegible] Mr. W. H. Hynes Smith [illegible] the [illegible] of Article 24 of the Treaty of [illegible]

Downing Street, October 6, 1900.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Mr. Chamberlain to High Commissioner Sir H. H. Hamilton Smith.

(Telegraphic.)

Downing Street, October 5, 1900.

TURKISH Government have taken [illegible] Arabia has imported arms and [illegible] ports of Cyprus from England and United States America with intention of [illegible] Mecca and Medina and Sheikh for the purpose of creating disturbances in Turkey. Please [illegible] this report and take steps as far as possible to check any such movement.

No. 121.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 210.)

Foreign Office, October 13, 1900.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 231 relative to the recent attack on Turkish officers in Her Majesty's Consulate at Van.

I have carefully considered the question of the indemnity for the [illegible] and I am prepared to [illegible] claim in respect of the [illegible] from the Turkish authorities [illegible]

I propose [illegible] pay some compensation for the wounded and to the Dragoman [illegible] and I request that you will move the Porte accordingly.

[illegible] diligence on the part of the Consular officers [illegible] prompt and effective [illegible] punishment of the persons concerned in the attack. Moreover it

does not seem advisable to afford the Turkish Government a pretext for objecting to journeys of British Consular officers, chiefly against Isa or Assad Turkey on the ground that the country is unsafe.

In these circumstances, it will be for the Porte, on application to the Corps de la paix, of £T 1,000 as suggested in Mr. Satow's letter of the 4th instant, to decide, verbally, secretly, and personally, entirely to officially correspond with Mr. Satow on this subject.

I have applied to the Lords of the Treasury for sanction for the payment of a gratuity of £T 5 to each of the two Cawasses who were with Major Maunsell at the time of the attack.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 122.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury. (*Received October 15.*)

(No. 351.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 9, 1900.*

WITH reference to Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 277 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting the measures that have been taken by the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure No. 12.

Vice-Consul Jones to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 37.)
Sir, *Kuneitra, September 26, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a message to me to the effect that Deraa, Dardara, two Mussulman villages, Shaker Yemani and Sayda, situated at a distance of seven hours to the east from this city, were recently attacked by Druse tribesmen, who, after wounding two of the villagers, carried off 150 sheep.

Subsequently Hamdans of the tribe mentioned, armed with Martini Peabody rifles, attacked the village of Kara Bagtcheh, belonging to the Kurdish tribe of Kara Guerbi, whereupon the chief of the tribe, a certain Khalil Bey, with his followers, went to meet the said Hamdans and a sanguinary affray ensued, which is said to have lasted, and many men were wounded.

On receiving news of this occurrence, the Kaimakam of Seyoun (whose jurisdiction the village in question normally belongs to) telegraphed to the Vali of Damascus for advice as to the following events. He was then ordered by Captain Hand to proceed to the scene of the attack with a body of troops, arriving not more than 1 hour after the Captain had received a telegram with news that the Druses were about to withdraw with the property they had looted, upon the Valley of Ezraa, and with regard to granting advice to the Kaimakam, to retain the latter Jordan Pass, and the Chief Kurdish Bey, and the Government appears to have taken further steps in the matter.

Again, on the 24th instant Basil Bey sent a letter to the Kaimakam stating that the Druses had withdrawn to the east of Ezraa, with a view to avoid the effect that hostilities resulting from their incursion might have on the negotiations for the withdrawal of troops which are at present in Mesarib. Commissioner Hajo Bey is in the Druse district, and Kadi Bey Sati is expected to arrive at Mesarib shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS JONES.

No. 123.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury. (*Received October 15.*)

(No. 116. Commercial.) Constantinople,
My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 140 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the Government of the Messageries Maritimes Railway Company inquired of me a few days ago whether Her Majesty's Government would not support the Company, as the French Government had done, by urging the Porte to grant the Company a concession for a railway from Beirut to Damascus.

I was subsequently informed by the Director of the Company that the Council of Ministers had decided to grant the concession, but that the Imperial Irade, which was necessary before the Firman could be issued, had not yet been received. I was also informed that the Messageries Company had already expended a large sum of money in the preliminary surveys, and that they had already obtained the right of way for the railway through the Government forests, and had purchased a large number of the sleepers required for the line.

Mr. Barnham added that the Government had given a promise to the French Government to grant a good concession to the Messageries Company, and that they would now find it necessary to come to some kind of an understanding with the Ottoman Railway Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 124.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury. (*Received October 15.*)

(No. 352 A.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 10, 1900.*

YOUR Lordship is aware that the Sultan has never grossed to resent with his plan for constructing, with funds to be subscribed by Mussulmans throughout the world, a railway from Damascus to Mecca. Subscriptions have, in point of fact, been received from various parts of the Turkish Empire, and the newspapers publish frequent paragraphs on the ready response which has been given to His Imperial Majesty's appeal, and on the progress which the scheme is making.

Notwithstanding these flattering circumstances, it may safely be said that a competent railway authority would estimate that a sufficient and permanent line, by so-called voluntary contributions to such a railway of 1,000 miles in length, or that it is contemplated across the desert of Nejd, possibly pay its expenses, or serve any purpose, when laid. The Sultan, however, looks fast to his project, which he imagines will strengthen his hold on the affections of Moslems. There is reason to think that the Moslems of Russia and India are being approached on the subject, and hearing that steps have been already taken to warn the former against supporting an unworkable scheme, I have thought that Her Majesty's Government ought, perhaps, not to delay a similar warning in India.

It is, of course, not impossible that the railway may be made, and I learn that drafts are already being sent from one of the Palace Departments, which, if duly got out of the way of the Custom-house for the wounded, and many presents sent in kind, which have been sisterly ready to purposes other than those for which they were originally intended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 125.

M. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—Received October 22.

(No. 352. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 12, 1900.*

THE connexion between the accounts of the Spagnuk movement which find publicity in the Vienna and Hungarian papers is further emphasized by the despatch transmitted herewith by which Her Majesty's Consul at Prizrend reports the visit of Mr. Dodd, the latter piece gives a vivid picture of the wretched state of the country, and a report of the Russian Consul at Uskub, dated at Bucharest, Mr. Dodd's narrative, a mystery, and probably a fabrication. Whatever Pashas' part in the affair may be, it is doubtful whether Prince Nicholas' part would be a desirable development to be formed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 125.

Consul Dodd to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 11. Confidential.)

Sir, *Prizrend, September 29, 1900.*

IN accordance with the despatch No. 291 of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Your Excellency dated the 20th instant, which you were pleased to forward for my information, I have the honour to report that the report of the Russian Consul, Uskub, to his Government, that the Spagnuk movement is therefore a matter for regret, the object of which is Mirko Mansell to Sassun could not be ascertained.

Whether a messenger from the Spagnuk chief did not take place at Spagnuk was a matter on which my informants were hopelessly at variance. A mystery, which is probably true, and Mr. Dodd's despatch, in view of the fact that the Spagnuk chief was in the hospital at Prizrend, and that the Spagnuk movement was entirely in the hands of his subordinates, contains no more evidence than will be found in the letter of Mr. Dodd himself, in spite of the latter's admittedly high personal character.

Even Pasha's friend confessed that it would be impossible for him alone to ascertain and report the truth, if that were found necessary to the local authorities.

Protestations are made that no pressure was brought to bear on Mr. Dodd's failure to reach Spagnuk, but according to accounts received both in Prizrend and Bitus, he was simply insulted and deterred by the Vali of Bitlis, who, I regret to say, is on the No. 12 of the list sent by the Ottoman Government, and could not, on the road. As far as the Consul's visit to Spagnuk is concerned, it has been rather a Mansell's visit to Prizrend.

It may be interesting in connexion with the Russian Consul, the American missionaries, 200 in all, left Bitus about three weeks ago in order to perform certain ceremonies in the Greek Church of Mush. Though duly provided by the Vali of Bitlis with the customary escort, they were not allowed to enter Mush, but were turned and sent back by the people and the guards of the American Consulate here have been informed of the intended departure to Mush.

Mr. Cole has been informed by the Vali of Bitlis, and is consequently perfectly well informed as to the movements of the Spagnuk chief, and has no object in his presence at Mush at this moment, whether the Spagnuk chief is dead or alive, proposed to be collected here, suggests that it would be unwise to send

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

No. 126.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 354.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 12, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum giving an account of an attack by Kurds on the Russian Acting Consul-General and his escort, Military Attaché, which took place on the 27th ultimo near Bitlis.

The increasing audacity and growing combativeness of the Kurds has been commented upon in these despatches. The Russian Embassy does, I hear, seem in a strong mood as to the restitution of the stolen baggage and the punishment of the aggressors. No doubt our Ambassador will, as usual, duly forward complaints are put in order to induce the Sublime Porte to control the Kurds.

The Ottoman Government are beginning to perceive that they have in the Kurds got a tiger by the tail. However, heavy it may prove a much more difficult task to press on the Sultan the necessity of dismissing Mr. Mansell, and of withdrawing or less solicited in the matter of the

[illegible] which has ended in the flight of Major Mansell, [illegible] and the Kurds have been [illegible] with impunity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 126.

Consul Lamb to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 1.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, September 29, 1900.*

THE Russian Vice-Consul has explained to me that on the 27th instant, on the road between Bitlis and Mush, he was attacked by Kurds, part of whose number were dressed in Circassian clothes and wore Russian uniforms.

Prince Chakhovskoi, Consul Prjevalsky, Dr. Prjevalsky, and the 19th instant for Erzeroum, and on passing through Ak-Dagh, Consul Pulcher, and the bearers of the Russian mail, were attacked by a band of Kurds, and after a three hours' parley and fight, during which the Kurds, it must have been, had more than the Russian party, the latter persons, all of whom were wounded, were stripped of their clothes and their horses and baggage taken from them. They were then allowed to continue their journey to Erzeroum.

Prince Chakhovskoi was wounded in the arm, but it appears that a party of twenty-five or thirty soldiers, who had left Mush earlier with ammunition after the Russians had passed, came up, fired on the aggressors, and inflicted on them a loss of eight men, among whom were also two killed and some wounded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

Enclosure 2 in No. 126.

Major Maunsell to Mr. de Bunsen.

No. 10.)

Erzeroum) [*Undated.*]

All [illegible] the Russian party [illegible] attack on my caravan has caused a great sensation here, and it is feared that the Russians having suffered [illegible] all their animals, baggage, &c., several Kurds killed and eight in [illegible] Prince Chakhovskoi [illegible] and the distance may [illegible] for [illegible] and the report of daring ruse of the Russian [illegible] [illegible] about the appointing of two leaders as

Colonels of regiments has had a most disturbing effect in consequence of various broken Chiefs of Kurdish tribes [illegible] great importance to want of unity and [illegible] authority which pervaded over the great 'derebeys' [illegible] terminated by the present Government [illegible] years ago.

Any thing like [illegible] against the Turkish Government, should [illegible] to [illegible] a powerful [illegible] appears to be a [illegible]

From certain indications [illegible] Mr. [illegible] and the military authorities [illegible] system they have [illegible] [illegible] the task is becoming more [illegible]

It is extraordinary [illegible] reverence he [illegible] years ago near Terjan [illegible] away with known as [illegible] between [illegible] taken great [illegible] but took a [illegible] Sultan has [illegible] raised a certain [illegible]

The Kurds are [illegible] regiments [illegible] and [illegible] nothing, and use the [illegible] Kurdish natives [illegible] Kurds will bring them to [illegible]

No. 127

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquis of Salisbury.—Received October 31.

(No. 358)

Constantinople, October 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, copy of a Report which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, giving an interesting account of the state of the Vilayet during the summer months.

Your Lordship will note that Mr. Lamb's remarks regarding the Hamidieh cavalry agree with the observations of Major Mansell, I have already called attention in my despatch No. 353 of the 12th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN

Inclosure in No. 127

Report on the Condition of the Vilayet of Erzeroum during the Quarter ended 30th September, 1877.

IN the record of the past quarter there are two, and only two, salient features to remark of which one is a transitory satisfactory as the other is unfortunately the reverse. The former is the partial relief from the economic tension which had prevailed during the previous twelve months, owing to the deplorable condition of insecurity and disorder to which the greater part of the Vilayet was reduced. Contrary to all the rules of cause and effect, the harvest throughout the entire vilayet has proved a most abundant one. Instead of ruin and famine, as the consequence of a series of disastrous years, we have had a more remunerative return than usual for the labours of the husbandman. As a result, the [illegible] has suffered little loss from pleasantry. But taking as a whole the year 1876 appears to have been almost unprecedented in the history of the present generation and the fear of wholesale starvation, which would almost necessarily have resulted from a crop failure, scarcely has the cloud been removed. The price of barley, which at the end of June had risen to 21 or 22 piastres, fell in August to 9 piastres, and in September has reached even 7 piastres per okka.

Wheat [illegible] from 40 piastres to 30 or 25 piastres [illegible] [illegible] present to have been magnificent, though [illegible] of a revival in the spring.

[illegible] the [illegible] the province remained [illegible] there occurred towards the end [illegible] [illegible] prevailed [illegible] away to [illegible] and [illegible] the west in sections [illegible] the plain, [illegible] [illegible] passed with reports [illegible] of raids on villages, cattle [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] of the Kurds which, in several instances, [illegible] with loss of life. Even the Hamidieh [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] that [illegible] to trace [illegible] points with a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

to Armenians of all three religious sects, Moslems and Russian sectaries now inclined to retaliate by attacking Mussulmans, to enter the territory from all Turkish subjects who soever.

A signal instance of the inconvenience, to say the least of it occasioned by these celebrations is afforded by the Nahie of Khodatchor, in the Kekum Caza. This Nahie, together with the adjacent villages of Mouskarghan and Garnaka, comprises some 1,000 families of Catholic Armenians, the male members of which have been arrested and for many generations past have earned their livelihood in the Caucasus, Crimea, and Southern provinces of Russia as weavers, working for two or three years at a stretch and returning with the proceeds of their industry for the great event of their lives. Their prospects of communications are rapidly being cut off, as the Russian authorities, [illegible] Moslems, have lost [illegible] and are now [illegible] to return to their homes.

In a recent letter from the Catholic Bishop in charge, he laments the [illegible] the Armenians are [illegible] by the Catholic and Gregorian Armenians. [illegible] Moslems [illegible] on the 1st March of the present year [illegible] Catholic Armenians [illegible] and [illegible] to pass [illegible] lands [illegible] to pass [illegible] to the Russian authorities [illegible] passing [illegible].

In conclusion, I have, &c. [illegible] the Catholic Armenians have for [illegible] the people, and [illegible] Catholic Armenians [illegible] to get [illegible] of [illegible] spoiled [illegible].

No. 128.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 22.*)

(No. 230.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October 15, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 231 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note which I have received from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens, reporting that, as a result of the struggle between the Turkish and Montenegrin Posts at the Duga Pass, the Montenegrins have both destroyed and carried off the [illegible] villages [illegible] by Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 128.

Her Majesty's Consul to Sir E. Barrington.

(No. 38.)

Sir, *Athens, October 13, 1900.*

WITH reference to the [illegible] between the Turkish and Montenegrin Posts at the Duga Pass, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, according to information received from the Prefect of Dulcigno, the Montenegrins, after destroying and carrying off the [illegible] villages [illegible] the Pass, on the 9th instant, were [illegible] of Christians, the Turkish Posts [illegible] withdrawing [illegible] the said Turkish Posts [illegible] Montenegrin territory [illegible] Turkish [illegible] Montenegrin [illegible] the Turkish [illegible] question [illegible]

not been enrolled among the Hamidieh troops, the Government of this province has at its disposal [illegible] forces at its disposal to punish the unruly tribesmen, and it is hoped that order will soon be restored.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 129.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 22, 1900.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to request [illegible] for such steps as [illegible] you to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a despatch from [illegible] Consul-General at Crete, reporting the progress of the [illegible] Moslems to Mecca. If [illegible] arrangements will, as [illegible]

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. L. SANDERSON.

No. 130.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 29.*)

(No. 234.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October 27, 1900.*

With reference to my despatch No. 230 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which has been received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Crete, reporting the [illegible] of the Moslem [illegible] to Mecca.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Consul Lamb to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 17.)

Sir, *Canea, October 7, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I left Canea yesterday for Dzumgan [illegible] Chief Commissioner [illegible] Turkish Commissioner [illegible] upon himself and [illegible] Cavendish [illegible] by Consular No. 5 of the 28th June, was not [illegible] except the last [illegible] was generally [illegible] by a [illegible] Consular, but [illegible] the [illegible] Consul [illegible].

The [illegible] of Fedrias [illegible] Kakotekhnaki [illegible] Kouteri and [illegible] twenty men will be [illegible] Vrahasi, [illegible] strong [illegible] never [illegible] quoted. However, [illegible] and Kourtsi Bankalesi stated that [illegible] about seven [illegible] Dzumgan, [illegible] which [illegible] are feared [illegible] occupied by a [illegible] of from 100 to 150 [illegible] [illegible] reported, were on their way, together with [illegible] bands [illegible] to reinforce, to return [illegible] the plain of Dzumgan [illegible] Consul, [illegible] suspecting [illegible] of [illegible] Yard, drawn [illegible] to assault them, [illegible] the rest [illegible] hopelessly [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

To reside among the pretty [illegible] of the [illegible] was by [illegible] a privilege [illegible] to [illegible]

The [illegible] of the [illegible] to [illegible] to [illegible] to

the town, where I sat down. He then asked me how I thought a person of such principles as our country, who was forced to take refuge among them, would be treated, and whether I was not afraid. He struck me at once as a person who referred himself to Providence, and that a good conscience was a tower of strength. He then told me the law was a terror to evil doers, but to a peaceable man there was nothing to fear. He continued, that as I came from a country where I had suffered persecution, I could not but feel a strong attachment to the government that put a stop to it. I told him I was very much pleased with the country, and the treatment I met with, and that I had no doubt but I should do well. He then told me that he was a member of the Assembly, and that the next day they would meet, and he would introduce me to the Governor, and that I might depend upon every thing in his power to serve me. He then left me, and I went to the house where I had been recommended to lodge, and found it to be a very good one. I was introduced to the Governor, who received me very politely, and told me that I might depend upon every thing in his power to serve me. He then left me, and I went to the house where I had been recommended to lodge, and found it to be a very good one.

Governor, that he was a native of Connecticut, and that he was a member of the Assembly, and that he was a member of the Assembly, and that he was a member of the Assembly

No. 133.

Mr. Russell to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 371.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 30, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, reporting the massacre of Armenians at the Monastery of Gueuksou, near the village of [illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) [illegible]

Enclosure in No. 133.

Lieutenant-Colonel Massy to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 95.)
Sir, *Adana, Oct. 11, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, having received information by this day's post, that a very great [illegible] process of plunder

Your Excellency will [illegible] Report on this subject, and that the [illegible] Cretan refugees [illegible] ment used, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

No. 135

Messrs. Tarsis and Ohan Ruaran Company to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

67, *Rue Lavaux, Constantinople, October* 31, 1900.

My Lord,

THE Undersigned, acting on behalf of the English bondholders and shareholders of the Ottoman, Tarsis and Van Railway Company, have the honour to request your assistance under the following circumstances:—

The railway system conceded to the Ottoman Company, [illegible] and starting from the almost exclusively English port of Tarsis, on the Levantine coast, the line is destined to serve the most important districts of Asiatic Turkey, and [illegible] has been the object of the most careful study on the part of the Company's engineers. Although the Company has been in existence for [illegible] years, and although the Government has [illegible] the Company has not yet been able to commence the construction of the line.

[illegible] the Ottoman Government [illegible] the Company [illegible] the Government [illegible] the Ottoman Government [illegible] the Sultan [illegible] the Ottoman Government [illegible] the Ottoman Government [illegible] the Ottoman Government

No. 137.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 378.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 3, 1890.*

WITH reference to Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 307 of the 25th August, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo reporting that Emin Pasha, the Vali whose appointment was opposed by England, has been formally installed in his new post by Imperial order.

I feel sure, however, that no further steps can be taken by the Porte to enforce the still pending recall of Emin Bey, Governor of Mr. Barker's murderer, and I have not thought it desirable to recognize him as Her Majesty's Ambassador otherwise than by sending a letter of congratulation to his Vice-Consul at Aleppo. I do not receive this week on the ground of my slight indisposition, but I have written to say that there may be a question of receiving the Vali on his arrival, if he should then be still in office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have had an audience of Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Aleppo, who informs me that Emin Pasha has received a telegram from the Porte directing that Mr. Barker's murderer should be sent to Constantinople, where he may be questioned by Her Majesty's Embassy. Emin Pasha is to be replaced by Ismail Ahmed.

M. DE B.

Inclosure No. 1 in No. 137.

Consul Barnett to Sir W. White.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Aleppo, October 30, 1890.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose my telegram No. 13 to the address of Her Majesty's telegraphic instructions were received last night from Emin Pasha had been reappointed Vali of Aleppo.

This information has been communicated to me by Ali Mohrim Pasha, who has, at the same time, received the Grand Cordon of the Osmanieh in brilliants to his services as Acting Vali.

During the interval which has elapsed since the celebration of the Sultan's accession, a bitter struggle to retain the appointment has been going on between these two men.

On the one hand, we have Emin Pasha forcing his claims to the largest possible amount to the Palace officials on first appointment, and on the other, Ali Pasha employing every artifice of the power which he has so largely exercised, and in his eagerness to retain it, telegraphing false tales against Emin Pasha.

When the order came for the Pasha to hand over the Vilayet, Emin Pasha refused to obey because he had not received promotions, and informed Ali Pasha of his intention to proceed next month. The latter, it is said, then desisted when Ali Pasha intimated that he would bring a company of soldiers and turn him out. Eventually Emin Pasha was given a close prisoner in his own house.

Emin Pasha having returned to Aleppo upon Ali Pasha, it remains to be seen what attitude the latter will adopt. He is actively waiting expecting that another effort will be made by the Embassy at Constantinople on behalf of Emin Pasha, but it is seen that the appointment of Emin Pasha is looked upon with favour both by the Vali and the people, and there will be great rejoicing between the two parties if he is reinstated.

Mr. Carr and Mr. Acton have received a petition from the inhabitants of Emin Pasha, who, the Moslems have been intimidated into signing. Emin Pasha, whose fanatical friends circulate strange stories as to his sufferings, feels resentment with a view to hurting a Christian whenever he can find chance.

I can give no information as to Emin Pasha, but Christians than ever treatment of Mr. Carter. He continues to enjoy the respect and confidence of all the Christians, and many Moslems as well. Emin Pasha, who carried his exactions to the point of demanding from Mr. Carter a present of 1,000*l.* before he would allow him to proceed. A few days after his arrival Emin Pasha called Mr. Carter before him, and commenced his work as governor as well as a vagabond, compelled him, and commencing his work as governor as well as a vagabond, compelled him

by threats and violence to resign his appointment. Mr. Carter's work can be carried on as usual, for he has seen appointed Chief Engineer of the Vilayet Steam-launch service.

It would seem as though there will yet be found more better work as soon as the present matter of Emin Pasha and the help of this friendly office.

The following despatches have been received, from which it will be very difficult for the Consuls to judge as to Emin Pasha's remains here for the present. Consul-General Consul to correct properly or correct to say as long as the Consul can't communicate personally with the Vali and we shall be compelled to seek the help of our Ambassador more frequently than would otherwise be the case.

My despatches have been duly completed and written to their Excellencies, and I trust that good results may be taken to obtain Emin Pasha's early dismissal or removal elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY G. BARNHAM.

No. 138.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 382. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 6, 1890.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 260 of the 28th November, 1890, I have the honour to enclose copy of a *note verbale* which I addressed to the Porte on the subject of the instructions to be given to the British Post Office Constantinople to settle its accounts with the Turkish Post Office. The amount of the sum of 1,083*l.* is due, as the amount of the operation carried by Her Majesty's Government for the first of the two Armenian Post Offices opened in 1890.

I would first point out that the sum in question is the amount of the agreement decided by Her Majesty's Postmaster-General who was to be the arbitrator of the dispute between the two Governments, and that the Turkish Government has not the right to refuse to pay the amount. Should the Porte refuse to pay, I would suggest that we should refuse to pay the amount of the Turkish Post Office.

I have also *note verbale* pointed out to the Porte a good opportunity for opening up the whole question of the Armenian Post Offices, and I have no doubt of obtaining a speedy settlement of the matter in view of the extension granted to the

French satisfactorily [illegible] by the United States which [illegible] very pressing [illegible] on Lords [illegible] that the Sublime Porte should [illegible] the impression that we have accepted them [illegible] of the 16th July, 1888, while they would [illegible] responsibility for [illegible] companies [illegible] enforce under the very eyes of the Turkish waters and police.

This note was [illegible] your Lordship in my Despatch No. 111 of the 20th July, 1888, and I [illegible] referred to in the *note verbale* which is the subject of this despatch.

[illegible] your Lordship [illegible] I would propose [illegible] reply in the terms of the draft of which [illegible]

I take [illegible] that the United States Legation [illegible] the Ottoman Government [illegible] the [illegible] Ottoman Government [illegible] Ottoman Post Office [illegible] Ottoman Government [illegible] Ottoman Post Office [illegible] Ottoman Government [illegible] Ottoman Post Office

Although a force of regular infantry and cavalry went to recover the cannon, and on arriving at the place where the latter had been abandoned, were joined by several thousand Kurds who occupy the neighbouring hills, no engagement took place.

The cannon appear promptly to have taken flight and returned to Erzeroum.

Here the Consul reports that the wounded consul, Mr. Devey, and others who took no distant part in the struggle. Reinforcements were sent from Van and other places, and it seems that a body of seven hundred infantry were to have established a defence, although the situation was saved by a captain and twenty men holding a height whence they could overlook the main Kurdish position, and so caused the enemy to withdraw.

Soon after this the troops were joined by Sadik Agha, Nordzi, with 100 Kurds who had been requested by the military Commandant of Van to render assistance, and it is generally thought that without the help of the Kurds the troops would never have been able to deal so effectually with the rebels.

Sadik Agha had an distant knowledge of the country and was able to avail himself shown by Lutf Bey, the kaimakam of Shatakh, who was killed.

Sadik has since come to Van and reported himself to the Governor-General. As to the affair he openly declares he does not repent. He remarked that his people had no letters, and had received no orders, adding that he did not take part at all to assist the Kurds, but that they had only fought in self-defence.

Several Kurdish Chiefs, it is believed, subsequently, with fifty horsemen each, recently called at the Consulate on their way to attacking Europeans. Seeing that the tribes has been severely punished, I do not intend to prosecute the prisoners, and they will probably be released, although the Vali says he intends charging them with dragoman the Imperial Ottoman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL.

No. 141.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 233.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 20, 1900.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 377 of the 3rd instant, forwarding a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beirout, in which he reports the measures taken to punish the persons responsible for the massacres at Hadfa.

I have read with satisfaction Mr. Drummond Hay's report that a apology has been made to Mr. Vice-Consul Abela for the entry of a Turkish Gendarmerie officer into his house.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 142.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 236. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 23, 1900.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 382, Confidential, of the 6th instant, transmitting a note from the Sublime Porte, relative to the sum detained by the British Post Office at Constantinople as compensation for the two Armenian Post Office employés murdered in 1896, and forwarding a draft answer in which you propose to reopen the question of the massacre claims.

I approve the terms of your proposed reply to the Turkish Government, subject to certain alterations which I have here suggested by Sir N. O'Conor, to whom the matter was referred.

I enclose a copy of the draft answer as amended by his Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 143.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 100.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 19, 1900.*

WITH reference to Lord Salisbury's despatch No. 210 of the 4th October last, I have the honour to report that I lost no time in making at the Sublime Porte a verbal demand for an indemnity of T. £ 100 as compensation to M. Shordoni for the wound inflicted upon him during the recent Kurdish attack upon Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van.

The claim is pursuing its natural cause, and I learn that it is now under the consideration of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 144.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 101.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 12, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, enclosing a report from Mr. Consul-General Devey on the recent attack by Kurds in the neighbourhood of Kara Kilisseh, on the Bayazid road.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Enclosure in No. 144.

Consul Lamb to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 19.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, November 6, 1900.*

ANOTHER incursion of Armenian revolutionaries was reported a few days ago from the neighbourhood of Kara Kilisseh, on the Bayazid road.

The Turkish authorities, being previously warned by their Agents at Erivan, were on the look out for this band, which was accordingly driven back with the loss of one killed and one taken prisoner.

I have repeatedly drawn the attention of Her Majesty's Embassy to the movements and distress occasioned by the restrictions imposed upon the circulation of Armenians in general, and the closing of the Russian frontier in particular, but it is obvious that absolutely no relaxation of prohibitive measures can be looked for so long as the insurrectionary agencies abroad persist in providing the Ottoman Government with so specious a pretext for continued severity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

No. 145.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 102.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 20, 1900.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the Damascus-Mecca Railway, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus reporting that he learns, on what he considers to be good authority, that the Ottoman Government contemplate the purchase of the existing Damascus-Hauran Railway, instead of constructing a parallel line of their own as far as Mezerib.

I have as yet heard no confirmation of this report at Constantinople.

I transmit also copy of a further despatch from Mr Richards reporting that the Vali of Damascus paid a visit to Mezerib on the 26th ultimo, in order to inaugurate a section of the Mecca line.

I have, &c
(Signed) M DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 145.

Consul Richards to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 92)
Sir, *Damascus, October 20, 1900*

WITH reference to my despatch No 88 of the 23rd instant and other previous despatches on the same subject, I have the honour to inform you that the Vali went down yesterday to Mezerib (on the Hauran) on the 26th instant in order to be present at the ceremony of opening to traffic the section of the Damascus-Mecca Railway. The fact that I was not brought sooner what to call a separate enterprise at Mezerib before receiving some later information Damascus only two months ago, would seem to confirm the impression already current that the Government hope to associate with the French Company's undertaking the Beirut-Damascus-Hauran Railway, which is considered locally as a more valuable asset.

We have recently received [illegible] of Messrs Noradounghian's survey, and the Commission will soon be in the field. Mr Noradounghian's survey, although not yet complete, is sufficiently advanced to enable him to state that some £T 40,000 have been profitably spent.

I have, &c
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 145.

Consul Richards to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 85)
Sir, *Damascus, October 17, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that it is reported on what would appear to be good authority, that the Ottoman Government contemplate the purchase of the existing Damascus-Hauran Railway, instead of constructing a parallel line of their own as far as Mezerib. It is said that the French Company are asking 16,000,000 fr. (640,000*l.*), while the Government think they only have to pay 9,000,000 fr. (360,000*l.*) to raise, I suppose, because the latter sum is a price should have been asked, unless it be that the Company, whose Oriental business has been as much as it expected, are anxious to get rid of it. To judge by the Turkish officials, which in view of the defects in the construction of the line, may be considered liberal, the manner in which it was sent through and treated is as it deserved. All this however, is as yet conjectural, and I would not venture to guarantee the correctness of these figures, seeing that negotiations are still in progress at Constantinople between the interested parties.

I hope soon to be able to give you accurate information on this subject.

I may perhaps state in this connection that the Damascus-Mecca telegraph construction works are making rapid progress, the line having been already pushed on as far as Muaddham, a place situated on the caravan road to Mecca, and distant about 494 miles from Damascus. It should not be inferred from this, however, that the new wires have been laid over the whole of that distance, because telegraphic communication was already in existence between this city and the town of Salt, a distance of about 120 miles, so that that question must be taken in order to ascertain the actual distance covered by the contractors of the line. The works are at 308 miles, a rate of progress which, considering that the commencement of the work was only made in March last, say, seven months or 210 days ago, is very creditable indeed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 146.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 403)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 20, 1900.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting on the financial position of the Damascus-Hauran Railway.

I have, &c
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 146

Consul Richards to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 87)
Sir, *Damascus, October 22, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you of what has recently come to my knowledge, viz., that the Beirut-Damascus-Hauran Railway Company's financial position is as follows:

Receipts to [illegible] 1899 (about) £T 50,000 (200,000*l.*)
Expenditure during the same period (about) 1,276,000 fr. (50,000*l.*)
Interest on debt to holders of obligations 1,600,000 fr. (64,000*l.*)
Therefore the deficit amounts to 1,400,000 fr. (14,000*l.*)

Seeing that the previous year's returns were [illegible] at a loss of (occasionally) double this amount, the [illegible] is, I suppose, to be congratulated.

I have, &c
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 147

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 407)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 24, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 58 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that the amount which is considered best for the Imperial Ottoman Treasury to receive from the Damascus-Mecca Railway Company is the sum of £T 130,000. Little more than £T 80,000 of this sum however has as yet been actually collected. The prospects of the line, therefore, are far from brilliant. I hear that in order to improve matters the voluntary contribution is in the form of an addition of 50 per cent to the taxes.

I have &c.
Signed M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 148

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 408)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 26, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 379 of the 3rd October, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, informing me of the [illegible] of the proposed attack by the Druses of Jebel Hauran on the Christian colleges on the occasion of the approaching festival of the Nebi Shuaib.

I have told Mr. Graves that this course, which is in accordance with the instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Government on a similar occasion, and I have also requested Mr. Barnham to observe the Executive's wishes as to advising the Consulate.

It is always difficult to ascertain the intentions of the Russian Embassy here, but M. Bapst the French Chargé d'Affaires, told me a few days ago that he was sending instructions to Aleppo to the same effect and had officially caused the Minister for Foreign Affairs to be informed that the French Government declined to enter into relations with an official whose dismissal they had demanded a few years ago, and that the French Consul at Aleppo would therefore be directed to abstain from paying Emin Pasha the customary visits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN

Inclosure in No. 148

Consul Barnham to Mr. de Bunsen

(No. 48.)
Sir, *Aleppo, November 13, 1890*

I HAVE the honour to state that a review of the troops on the occasion of the Sultan's birthday and the anniversary of Emin Pasha's Governor-Generalship of the vilayet by my colleagues and myself took place at 8 o'clock this morning. I enclose a respective Arabic translation of the Consul's address and beg to request that you will be good enough to submit it to His Excellency Tewfik Pasha.

It is reported that Emin Pasha proposes to pay Aleppo a visit on the anniversary of Abdul Aziz's accession to the throne and that he will invite Mahsun Pasha to receive official congratulations.

On the occasion of the Consular Body informing Ali Pasha that they could not call to inform the representative of Emin Pasha of their intention, and that they relied upon his assurance that Emin Pasha had been assured that the visit was paid. This assurance was given, but the call certainly was not returned or alleged by the latter with a view to avoid it. Therefore I submit that it would be more correct that we should ignore any invitation to attend this ceremony whether proceeding from Emin Pasha or another. I propose however to allow the military commander and to have cavas sent to Mosul.

With reference to the telegram from His Excellency the Ambassador on the 25th August conveying instructions on this subject, I beg to be informed by telegraph, whether I would be acting advisedly should I again call at the Consulate in order to show that our attitude towards the Vali is purely personal and not directed towards the Sultan or the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM

No. 145

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 410.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 24, 1890*

WITH reference to Sir N. R. O'Conor's despatch No. 291 of the 3rd July I have the honour to transmit herewith a list of the places at which railway stations are recommended as I learn on good authority, that the proposed German company to Bagdad shall found. No Imperial Iradé however has been issued confirming the terms of the agreement thus reached between the German Company and the Turkish Commission sitting at the Ministry of War. The [illegible] are likely to be communicated to the Porte [illegible].

It will be seen that [illegible] recommended [illegible] Government despatch. This has been communicated to the expert subsequently to the Government despatch. The

* Not printed

Sea by the Gulf of Alexandretta, which is now to be reached by the new railway, instead of being left to the south of it. The outlets at Castel Rosso or Castellorizo in the Gulf of Alexandretta and at Kadina Bay (Kowen) are also under the further being intended, no doubt, as terminus of the railway which for the conveyance of railway material was stored in my despatch No. 149 Confidential of the 25th September.

I am not ascertain that any progress has yet been made towards the determination of the necessary Imperial guarantee of the means for [illegible].

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN

Inclosure in No. 149

List of Places on the routes of the proposed Koniah-Bagdad Railway.

Konieh or Eregli	Lake Van to Nisibin
Karaman	Nisibin to Mardin
Arslan Tash [illegible]	Mardin to Mosul
[illegible]	Mosul to Bagdad
[illegible]	[illegible]
Kara [illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
Hassana	[illegible]

No. 150

Mr. de Bunsen to Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 414.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 28, 1890*

WITH reference [illegible] I have the honour to transmit herewith [illegible] the Grand Vizier [illegible] the coast of the Persian Gulf.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN

Inclosure 1 in No. 150

[illegible] Mr. de Bunsen

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Ancyra, October 15, 1890*

I HAVE [illegible] through Dr. Yorke, Kaimakam of Payas, [illegible] Dr. Yorke's stretch to [illegible] Dr. Yorke's stretch to [illegible] will go

[illegible] of not a murderous character himself, proceeds to threaten the Kurds to that end unless thoroughly [illegible]

Again, on the 11th between Nazikan and Mordan [illegible] two small tribes of Armenians at Kevan [illegible] Nazim Pasha (Chief of the Fourth Army) having practically constituted himself Judge, Jury, and Executioner, [illegible] consideration for the fact that the avowed design of holding Nazikan as Mush Pasha had [illegible]

In the Mezreh district some time past a feud has existed between the Haroshi and Dakshuri Kurds, which has led to many attacks, which have resulted in considerable loss of life and damage to property on both sides.

At Jezireh, where I personally am in the hands of Mustafa Pasha, Commander of the Hamidieh [illegible] Armenians [illegible] peaceful [illegible] Kurdish

In the Ozan district, where the Armenians have been [illegible] by Kurds, I [illegible] that Dr. Raynolds and Miss Cantlow have recently moved to Sikan, [illegible] the persecution of the Armenians [illegible] from the [illegible]

[illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

Enclosure 2 in No. 150.

Vice-Consul Jones to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 42.)
Sir,

Diarbekr, November 13, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report that the villages in this district continue to suffer from the raids of the so-called Kurds known as the Haroshis and I regret to have to add that a very recent instance of their attacks by those of the Christian village shows that the aggressors are not always Kurds, as formerly recorded in my despatch No. 40 of the 1st instant.

On the 11th instant Kurds from Kevash village [illegible] south of Ozan, were [illegible] Haroshis [illegible] of Christian belonging to the village of Kevash.

Again on the following day a party of Kurds [illegible] the Ozan road were [illegible] Haroshis [illegible] Sevekin [illegible]

On the same day Kurds from Kevash village [illegible] Ozan, [illegible] to be [illegible] Haroshis, who carried off the cattle.

Again on the 11th instant a party of Kurds [illegible] Ozan road were [illegible] Haroshis [illegible] Sevekin [illegible]

On the same day Kurds from Kevash village [illegible] Ozan, [illegible] to be [illegible] Haroshis, who carried off the cattle.

On

Miss Wilson apparently placed implicit [illegible] who abuses at [illegible] with all sorts of imaginary horrors. She is specially invented the story

The American came even the [illegible] except said that [illegible] coming up the street, [illegible] cold, until they passed

The soldiers passed through and [illegible] I then went to Dr Raynolds, the [illegible] Miss [illegible] heard anything whatever of any outrage [illegible]

Dr. Raynolds at once volunteered to write a [illegible] given me to enclose as [illegible] to stop all letters to that address

As regards the last paragraph [illegible] girls were in any danger whatever

Sergeant [illegible] [illegible] decided [illegible] the [illegible] before [illegible]

As regards [illegible] tax [illegible] payable [illegible] Sept [illegible] by the Vali [illegible] give [illegible] what [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

people to lead them to believe that these Concessions or some of them would be granted to our Company.

It now appears, however, that the Ottoman Government, disregarding the claims of our Company, has granted the Concession, accompanied by a guarantee of interest on capital, to a German group, representing the Anatolian Railway Company, for the construction of a railway, an extension of the Anatolian Railway from Konieh to Bagdad. The Concessionaires are to enforce, and the route from Konieh passing south of Lake Bey Shehr to its present end there to the Bay of Yerme on the Gulf of Alexandretta, and subsequently, from the vicinity of Aintab to the Euphrates at Marash or Aintab.

It is obvious that the measures designed by the German group for the construction without delay of the railway, and for the development of the Konieh-Bagdad and Eastern Districts will direct much of our railway traffic towards the small amount of commercial benefit which the Concession, for the time being, confers upon us.

We understand that the Ottoman Government have already despatched to Berlin a Special Envoy to bring to an issue the negotiations for the Concession, which has been initialled by the Grand Vizier and the German Ambassador at Constantinople, and to obtain the formal approval of the German Government to the Agreement. We understand that the Ottoman Government have also requested the German Government to [illegible] the Concession.

We have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN COLLINSON, Chairman.
SAMUEL DAY,
CHARLES HARDY.

[illegible]

No. 14.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 251.)

Foreign Office, December 7, 1900.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 405 of the 23rd ultimo, and I approve your instructions to Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo in regard to his attitude towards the Vali, Emin Pasha, in connection with the forced [illegible] of the Sultan's birthday.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 15.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Lieutenant Gough.

(No. 244.)

Foreign Office, December 7, 1900.

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith a copy of a letter which has been received from the Messrs. Lansell, Lambert, and Co., of the Mersey Bazaar, and Arab Row Co., Limited, protesting against His Majesty's Government [illegible] of their goods.

As you will see from Mr. Lansell's letter, the [illegible]

You will see from Mr. Lansell's enclosure No. 1 that I replied to the 9th [illegible], and I [illegible] on the 15th October that the Commercial [illegible] Vali [illegible] July the [illegible] Mersey Bazaar [illegible] Arab Row Co., Limited, [illegible] Vali [illegible] Government [illegible] the Ottoman Government [illegible] the Ottoman Government [illegible] the Ottoman

No. 157.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 124.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 3, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 401 of the 20th November last I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beirut, reporting that a Commission of engineer officers may be examining the Hafir Lake Scheme Railway Works apparently with the object of constructing the railway through Palestine into the province of Hejaz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Enclosure in No. 157.

Consul-General Dawkins to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 83.)
Sir, *Beirut, November 22, 1900.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. [illegible] of the 24th September last, regarding the Hafir Lake Railway Scheme, I have the honour to report that the alleged decision of the Turkish Government to connect it with the Hejaz Railway has been denied by Mr. Ussher, Acting Vice-Consul at Haifa, who has inspected the works of the railway on the spot.

It appears that the Ministers of Public Works and Evkaf have been in Nazareth for some days past, at the orders of the Commander-in-Chief, Redif Pasha, with a view to the construction of the Haifa-Nazareth railway. Dr. Schmidt, the Director of Public Works, has also been in Nazareth, with a view to the construction of the Lake Tiberias railway. Mr. Ussher, who has had interviews with both Ministers, has reported that they have not visited the Hafir Lake Scheme, and that they have not even discussed the question of the railway through Palestine to the Hejaz. It is believed that the Commission of Engineers, who are now in Palestine, have been sent there to report on the feasibility of the railway through Palestine to the Hejaz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. [illegible]

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 3, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 116 [illegible] I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note which I have received from His Majesty's Minister at Athens, stating that [illegible] has been appointed Governor of Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. [illegible].

Lord Cromer to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 143.)
Sir, *Cairo, November 20, 1900.*

[illegible]

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attacked a party of camel-drivers, and took possession of the whole drove, consisting of ninety camels; and last night the village of Muderres, half of the population of which is Christian, and the other half Moslem, was plundered by a band of Hamidehs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 159.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 4, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 401 of the 20th October last, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum reporting the result of the operations conducted by the Mutessarif of Erzingan against the Kurds who attacked Russian Consul Guarmani in the district of Kizildelen. Twenty-seven persons have been arrested, six of whom are declared to have been notorious brigands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 159.

Consul Lamb to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, November 30, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 7th October last, I have the honour to report that the operations conducted by the Mutessarif of Erzingan against the Kurds who attacked Mr. Consul Acting Consul-General Guarmani while travelling in the district of Kizildelen have resulted in the arrest of twenty-seven persons, six of whom are declared to have been notorious brigands.

Details of these operations are wanting, but that the arrests were not effected without considerable resistance is apparent from the fact that seven of the prisoners are reported as wounded, while three other Kurds are stated to have been killed. A small quantity of arms and other property were also seized.

An important section of the Sheikh Hussein division of the Dersim Kurds, who had hitherto enjoyed a practical independence of all government, has tendered its submission to the authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

No. 160.

Foreign Office to Mr. J. Collinson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 10, 1900.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, requesting the assistance of Her Majesty's Government for the protection of the interests of the Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway Company.

Mr. Pearse [Sir W. Wratthall of Constantinople] recently addressed a letter to Lord Salisbury on this subject, and I am to transmit to you the accompanying copy of the reply which has been sent to him.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

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* No. 155.

No. 161.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December 24.*)

(No. 437.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 17, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 400 of the 19th November, reporting the action I had taken on receipt of the instruction contained in Lord Salisbury's despatch No. 210 of the 12th October, I have the honour to state that I have to-day received from the Ottoman Ministry of Finance the sum of £T. 100 as compensation to the Dragoman of Her Majesty's Vice-Consulate at Van for injuries received during the attack by Kurds on Major Maunsell, and for the expenses entailed for medical attendance.

I propose to forward the money to Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Satow to be handed to Mr. Sbordoni.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 162.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December 24.*)

(No. 438.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 17, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van giving an interesting account of the state of affairs at Shemsdinan and in the Nestorian country where he recently made a journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Major Maunsell to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 47.)

Sir, *Van, November 18, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to forward the following Report of my recent journey into the Hekkiari Sandjak of this vilayet:—

The Shekak Kurds over the Persian border have been much disturbed this year, and practically closed the trade routes from the Urmia Plain into Persia.

The Persian authorities took certain steps against them this autumn with the result that one Chief, Muhammad Emin, was captured and taken into Urmia.

He was released on payment of a fine of 5,000 tomans, which his followers collected by pillage and robbery in all directions as soon as they heard that that was all that was necessary for his release.

The principal instigator of all the robberies, Jaafer Bey, son of Mehmed Pasha, was allowed to go quite free probably after extensive bribery of officials; while his father left for Tabreez to meet the Shah on his return from Europe.

The Shekak did endeavour to cross into Turkey, but were prevented by the frontier posts of regular troops which were specially strengthened.

The notorious Sheref Bey, the Hamidieh Chief, who lives on the frontier near Bashkala, has been mainly occupied this year with raids into Persia directed usually against the Jaafer Bey mentioned above, but has committed many petty depredations on this side of the frontier, and the Bashkala authorities, including the Mutasserif, seem powerless to do anything to check him, owing to his position as "Mir Alai" of a Hamidieh regiment, and specially decorated by the Sultan.

After the complete failure of the Vali in the spring of last year, to have him tried and punished for some of his many offences, the authorities now leave him alone.

I saw Sheikh Hamid Pasha, an influential Kurdish Sheikh of an old family, who lives close to Bashkala, and who is always most friendly to Christians, and has a good influence with the Government.

The present Mutessarif of Bashkala is a young, energetic official, who works very well with the Vali, and is an immense improvement on his predecessor Mahmud Pasha.

I visited the Shemsdinan Caza, with its capital Neri, which is also the residence of Sheikh Muhammad Sadik, son of the late Sheikh Obeidullah.

When I passed through, the Sheikh was absent at his summer residence at Katuna, close to the Persian frontier, and was engaged in extensive preparations for a visit to Tabreez to meet the Shah.

As I have already reported, he was obliged to abandon this visit owing to the representations of the Vali, and the influence of Sheikh Hamid Pasha, who was specially sent to dissuade him. He has three sons:

1. Seyyid Muhammad Reshid, 18 years old, but epileptic, and unlikely to succeed his father in consequence.
2. Seyyid Taha, 9 years old, the favourite, and probable successor to his father.
3. A son 2 years old.

The Sheikh is engaged at Neri in building a remarkably large stone house, four storeys high, and is reputed extremely rich, chiefly from his trade in tobacco, a large quantity of which is grown in the Shemsdinan valleys.

He has not the great influence among the surrounding Kurds that I thought he had, and this is chiefly due to his grasping avarice and treacherous disposition.

The chief Kurdish tribes in the neighbourhood are noted on the annexed list.

Most of the important tribe of Heriki are against the Sheikh.

The Kurds of the populous Zerzan Valley are nominally with him, but are really afraid to be otherwise.

The Oramar Kurds, under their notorious robber Chief, Sutu, are under his influence.

The Kurds round Neri, and some in Tergavvar, in Persia, are his supporters, but he has entirely alienated the large tribes of Girdi and Baradost by his treacherous murder of one of their Chiefs, who claimed the right of asylum with one of the Sheikh's followers.

The Sidan section of the Heriki, under Kerim Khan, made a successful attack on the Sheikh's men this summer, killing twenty of them.

Altogether, as far as I could judge, there seems no likelihood of this Sheikh attaining to the great influence which his father, Obeidullah, possessed, or of becoming leader of such a revolt as he carried out.

Musa Bey, the Chief of the Khumara Kurds, is an excellent specimen of the Kurdish Chief—always most friendly to Christians; is one of the old ruling families—that of the Mir of Shemsdinan. He is extremely hostile to the Sheikh.

The Mattran of the Nestorians lives in the Zerzan Valley, and is at present on good terms with the Sheikh, but in great terror of him.

When Hekkiari was an independent vilayet, the Turks had extensive schemes to appoint Kaïmakams to the various mountain districts; but of recent years most of these ideas seem to have been dropped, and, with the exception of Gavvar, Julamerk, and Shemsdinan, where troops and the regular form of government is maintained, the mountain districts are permitted to settle their own affairs under their own tribal leaders, paying a small annual tribute.

In Neri the Government seem to have abrogated most of their authority to the Sheikh, the present Kaïmakam being a nonentity, who drifts on by effacing himself and doing whatever the Sheikh requires.

It will be remembered that the Sheikh endeavoured to strangle his predecessor, who showed himself energetic and assertive.

Of the other nahies of the Shemsdinan Caza, Girdi has no Mudir or representative of the Turkish authority.

The Plain of Baradost, close to Girdi, but in the Mosul Vilayet, is also practically independent.

For the deep mountain valley of Heriki a Mudir was apparently appointed, but I found him installed in Neri; he told me he had not been to Heriki for six months, and was soon leaving for another post.

Zerzan nahie has a Kurdish Chief acting as Mudir, but this district is entirely in the Sheikh's power.

For Khumara nahie Musa Bey is Mudir.

With a strong Central Government, able to control the various factions, this kind of local self-government would be very suitable to these mountain districts; but, as matters stand at present, the result is chaos, with ceaseless intertribal quarrels, murders, pillage, and raids. There is no prominent leader just at present to make the situation particularly

dangerous to the Government, and there are many sections bitterly hostile to one another.

The notorious Sutu, Chief of the Oramar Kurds, who has of late years done so much pillaging in the Christian valleys, is just now the most prominent leader, as, while I was passing through, he had just completed a successful attack on the Reikan tribe of Kurds in the mountains to the west of him, and this will unfortunately increase his prestige.

On my return to Van I represented this to the Vali, who promised to do his best to prevent any further attacks on the Christian valleys.

The present Mutessarif may be trusted to do much more to keep order than his predecessor of last year. But then, again, the Christians are every whit as quarrelsome, ignorant, and reckless as their Kurdish neighbours, and they are mixed up in the inter-tribal quarrels and blood-feuds of the latter.

For example, during Sutu's quarrel with Reikan several armed Nestorians from Jelu went to assist Sutu, and this will probably create a blood-feud with Reikan.

If they hoped to gain Sutu's gratitude I am afraid they will not be successful.

Then, again, when in Marta Marzaia, the principal village of the Christian valley of Jelu, I found relations very strained with the Christian valley of Baz, a little lower down, the cause being a grazing dispute.

They were rather afraid of Baz, who are good fighting men, but thought that if they obtained Sutu's assistance they would be able to extinguish their opponents.

I need scarcely say I did my utmost to dissuade them from anything of the sort.

The Bishop of Jelu is a boy 14 years old, but, strange to say, has much influence for good, gives judgments, &c., which are accepted. He is very bright and intelligent, and Mr. Browne hopes to get an opportunity of educating him.

In Marta Marzaia, on a village quarrel taking place, the opponents seize their guns, rush out on to the hillside, where, after a few hours' firing, honour is probably satisfied.

The village is the centre of the numerous Nestorian beggars, who travel to all parts of the world and generally return with 150*l.* to 200*l.*

Many of them know English. One old man told me he knew London well; but just then could only remember the name of one street, which was Bow Street!

Another had fought as an American sailor in the Spanish war; another had just returned from the Brazils, had lost some money in Lisbon, and wished me to help him to recover it, &c.

Several men were growing their hair long preparatory to a tour as Russian priests through Russia. I may add that it is apparently only from this valley of Jelu that the beggars go out.

They are quite shameless, and a more jovial and reckless set of beggars I have never met.

Mr. Browne accompanied me through the Christian valleys of Ishtazin, Jelu, and Diz, and so to Kochannes, where I met Mar Shimun. It was now two years since Mr. Browne had been into Van, so I thought it advisable that he should accompany me there so as to visit the Vali and the various officials, of whom he seems to have got wrong ideas while at Kochannes.

The Vali was extremely glad to see him, and the visit did away with much mutual distrust on both sides, and made things very hopeful for the future.

As regards the question of opening a school in Kochannes, the Vali explained that it was impossible for him to give permission for a foreigner to open a school, and that long and tedious references to Constantinople would be necessary.

However, if Mar Shimun sent in an application for a school, he would consider it favourably, and although in Mar Shimun's name Mr. Browne could teach there, and it would be practically his. This is the only possible arrangement at present.

When Mr. Browne returned to Kochannes he induced Mar Shimun to send a most friendly telegram to the Vali, and relations are now on a most cordial footing.

Shortly after, Zia Bey, the Inspector sent from Constantinople to inquire into the condition of the Nestorians, in answer to a request from Mar Shimun, arrived in Julamerk.

Mar Shimun and Zia Bey have got on very well together, although probably little will result from the inspection.

At any rate, Zia Bey seems to have brought no instructions from Constantinople hostile to Christians such as I feared in my despatch, but seems to have been told to smooth things over as best he could.

He sent for the Maliks of Tiari to come to Julamerk to make peace with the men of Lewin after the raid of last year, but they were afraid to leave their valleys. On the

representations of Mr. Heazell, our missionary who lived in Tiari last winter, they were induced to come to a point half-way, where Zia Bey met them, arranged a peace, and assured them that the roads would be opened whenever they came to Julamerk.

This action ought to clear away any suspicion the Turks had of our missionaries harbouring revolutionary schemes and raising the Nestorians against the Government.

I have consistently tried to induce Mr. Browne to work as much as he could with the Government while there was a good Vali occupying the post at Van, and I think I have now succeeded.

The Turkish Government, bad and feeble though it is, is all that exists at present, and he must make the best of a bad job.

The Catholic Mission of Mosul a short time ago sent a deputation to meet some of the Tiari men, and offered them a modern rifle each if they became Catholic.

I heard this almost incredibly foolish offer confirmed from several sources, and finally the Vali himself told me of it.

Its effect on Catholic efforts ought to be annihilating.

Throughout this summer two attempts have been made by the Catholics of Van to penetrate the Nestorian country, but in each case they were turned back; one priest, just before my arrival, was not allowed down by Julamerk, but sent round by Rowanduz to Mosul.

The Russians are making no attempts whatever at present to spread their influence on this side of the frontier, and they are quiet in the Urmia Plain.

In Diza, in Gavvar, there is a small orphanage kept by a pastor, Isa Khamis, who has been educated in England, and has a brother studying as a doctor there now. Money is is sent by the Rev. W. Essery, Alliance House, 7, Adam Street, Strand, who seems to repose implicit confidence in Khamis.

I paid a surprise visit to the orphanage in Diza, and found a small house, comfortably furnished, in which Khamis lived with his family.

Passing through the kitchen I found one dirty, half-naked, boy, whom I was told was an orphan, and that the rest were at work in the fields, so, presumably, the establishment is conducted on the "Dotheboy's Hall" principle.

The staff for 12 orphans was 2 women-servants, 1 man-servant, and 1 teacher, while Khamis and his wife did manager and manageress, and seemed entirely above any teaching work.

Thus these specious hypocrites fatten on money wheedled out of amiable old ladies in England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL.

List of Kurdish Tribes in Southern Hekkiari-Van Vilayet.

The large nomad tribe of Heriki is divided into the following sub-sections:—

Sarhadi	Abdulla Agha	300 tents.
Kanispi	Salih Agha	100 "
Mamdekhan	Piru	150 "
Avdian	Abdul Kerim Agha	200 "
Khideran	Khoja Agha	400 "
Sidan	Kerim Khan	500 "
Dashki	Bayazid Agha and Temir Agha	Eight villages at south end of the Gavvar Plain.
Diri (section of Kartoshi) ..	Rustem Bey	Six villages east side of Gavvar; chief village, Dara.
Bilijuan (section of Piniashili)	Muhammad Agha, Nejid Bey ..	Fifteen villages between north end of Gavvar and Zab Valley. Muhammad Agha lives in Harwasa.
Khumara	Musa Bey	Ten villages in Khumara.
Zerzan	Aya Khan	Twelve villages in Zerzan.
Oramar	Sutu	In one villarge of Oramar of 200 houses.
Girdi	Muhammad Agha, Muhammad Emin, Mel - a - Mahmud, Shekir Agha	Thirty villages in Girdi.
Baradost	Latif Khan, Muhammad Sherif, Muhammad Said	Twenty-five villages in Baradost (Mosul Vilayet).

(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL.

No. 163.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 439.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 17, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 425 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir reporting further on the depredations of the Hamidieh regiments and the spread of disorder in the district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Vice-Consul Jones to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 44.)
Sir, *Diarbekir, December 4, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 43 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to report that various other villages have recently been plundered by the Hamidiehs in this district.

On the 19th ultimo the village of Hamrani was raided by a band of these troops, and on the following day four villages, viz., Yenidjé, Teshtano, Dengetchick, and Dikkyani experienced similar treatment.

On the 22nd ultimo the villages of Shekrvirân and Ardullah were attacked and raided by Hamidiehs belonging to the forces under the orders of Ibrahim Pasha.

On the following day two villages Omerghan and Kazukhtépé were plundered by Kurds of the Terika tribe, who are not as yet enrolled among the Hamidiehs—one man being killed at the first-named village.

Again on the 23rd ultimo, an affray occurred between the followers of Sevedin Pasha and Kurds of the tribe named with the result that four of the Terikas were killed—the scene of the contest being distant not more than an hour from this city.

On the 24th ultimo the two villages of Peshabur and Zakho in the Jezireh district of the Mardin division, containing a mixed population of Moslems and Christians in equal proportion, were plundered by the followers of Mustafa Pasha, the Commander of the Hamidiehs in that region.

In view of the systematic raids carried on for some time past by these troops of robbers the action of the Central Government in heaping favours and decorations on their Chiefs Ibrahim Pasha and Mustafa Pasha is viewed with much disfavour by the peaceable inhabitants of these districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 164.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 442.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 22, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 438 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Van, reporting the return of Zia Bey from the Hekkiari district and the measures he proposes for the maintenance of order there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 164.

Acting Vice-Consul Satow to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 49.)
Sir, *Van, December 4, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Zia Bey, the Mufetish, recently sent from Constantinople to report on the condition of the Hekkiari district, has returned from his tour of inspection, having spent some six weeks in those parts.

In his Report to Constantinople he has proposed that the following measures should be taken with a view to placing the district in a more satisfactory condition as regards the preservation of life and property.

It appears that there are three passes by which all movement is carried on.

At each of these three passes, viz., Dreis, Kaval, and Meranish, all in the Nahieh of Lewin, it is proposed that guard-houses should be established with garrisons of some fifty men a-piece. These will remain out all the summer, and will control all movement in the district which must pass through these points. In winter, as the passes are closed with snow, the garrisons will be withdrawn and concentrated at Lewin.

It was at a distance of four hours from Meranish, a very wild district, that Major Maunsell was recently attacked.

It is also proposed to replace the present Government house (Konak) at Julamerk by a more suitable building.

The cost of the various buildings is estimated at £T. 1,000. Of this sum, £T. 300 would be provided by the Treasury of the vilayet, and the remainder contributed in kind, viz., wood, stone, &c., by the villagers.

During his tour, Zia Bey spent several days at Kochannes, where he saw Mr. Browne, of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Mission, and discussed the various proposals with him.

Mr. Browne has written to me warmly supporting Zia Bey's plans. As he has considerable knowledge of the country, his support is a proof of the value of the proposed measures, at any rate, from a Nestorian point of view.

The Vali has written to Constantinople expressing his complete approval of Zia Bey's proposals, and suggesting that he should be allowed to remain here until the spring to personally superintend the work.

Zia Bey seems earnest in wishing to carry through his plans, and is very desirous of remaining in person to supervise. He does not wish to give in his Report and then let the matter drop.

Should the permission for his stay not be granted, plans which seem likely to produce a more satisfactory state of things in Hekkiari will undoubtedly be shelved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 165.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 443. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 24, 1900.*

I OBSERVE that the newspapers have published a telegram from Washington, stating that it is there considered that the presentation of a British note at Constantinople on the subject of claims arising out of the massacres, as admitted in a reply to a question in the House of Commons, had unfavourably affected the prospects of the American negotiation, undertaken for a similar purpose, and which was connected with the signature of a contract for the building of a Turkish cruiser in Messrs. Cramp's yards.

Your Lordship's despatch No. 236, Confidential, of the 23rd ultimo, approving the proposed terms of the note in question was received by me on the 1st instant. The American negotiation had entered upon a critical phase at that date, and being desirous of taking no action which might render more difficult the attainment of the object which my United States' colleague had in view, I resolved, after a confidential conversation with him, to hold back my note for a few days. Mr. Griscom thought that the Sublime Porte would perhaps be deterred, by the renewal of the British demands, from concluding a bargain which might furnish England with new

arguments in support of her own claim, and I felt that these apprehensions were not entirely unfounded.

I waited, therefore, for ten days, and then told Mr. Griscom that I could not withhold indefinitely a communication which I had been instructed to make, and asked him whether his negotiation was nearing a conclusion. He replied that Messrs. Cramp's agent had not yet signed the contract for the cruiser, but that everything was settled except a few minor details, and that he had now no fear of Turkey drawing back. He begged, therefore, that I would not delay my note any longer on his account, and he expressed his sincere thanks for the assistance which he was good enough to say that I had rendered him.

I sent in my note in the terms approved by your Lordship on the 12th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 166.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 444.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 24, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 431 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting the arrival of an Italian engineer to take charge of the construction of the projected railway to Mecca.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 166.

Consul Richards to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 101.)
Sir, *Damascus, December 5, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 92 of the 30th October, I have the honour to inform you that an Italian engineer, a certain Signor Bello, who has been appointed Engineer-in-chief for the construction of the Mecca Railway, has arrived in Damascus and proceeded to Mezerib, the scene of his future labours. It appears that M. Bello's salary, which is officially stated to be 20,000 fr. per annum, will be paid out of funds provided for that and cognate purposes by the "Caisses Agricoles" of this vilayet, amounting in all to £ T. 100,000.

I hear, though I cannot guarantee the correctness of the report, that M. Bello has informed the authorities here that he will require for the undertaking 7,000 paid workmen—not, as at present, soldiers—who shall be, preferably, Italians and Egyptians. Further details will, I have no doubt, be forthcoming shortly, which, should they prove of interest, I shall not fail to communicate.

I hear some talk of the appointment of a German engineer in addition to M. Bello, but it is not so far officially confirmed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 167.

Viscount Gough to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 320.)
My Lord, *Berlin, December 28, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 294 of the 7th December, instructing me to make a communication to the Imperial German Government in favour of an arrangement between the concessionaires of the Konieh-Bagdad Railway and the British Investors in the Mersina-Adana Railway.

At the suggestion of the Imperial Secretary of State, I explained the matter this

afternoon to the Under-Secretary of State, Dr. von Mühlberg, who is thoroughly conversant with all that concerns railways in Asia Minor, though not hitherto in possession of the case of the Mersina-Adana Railway.

On principle he is quite in favour of friendly arrangements in such cases, and related the story of the Smyrna-Kassaba Railway. It appears that an equitable arrangement had been made by the Germans with the representative of that Company, but at the last moment the shareholders refused their consent at a general meeting, and the Germans were obliged to settle with a French group instead.

In the present case Dr. von Mühlberg undertook to go into the matter thoroughly with Dr. von Siemens, President of the Deutsche Bank, and before I left the room he fixed an interview with that gentlemen for 12 o'clock to-morrow.

On my directing Dr. von Mühlberg's attention to the probability that any unfair treatment of British interests in the Mersina Railway would unfavourably effect the prospect of obtaining financial assistance in England for the construction of the railway to Bagdad, he inquired whether the converse might be understood, and whether the Konieh-Bagdad scheme had a fair prospect of financial support in England. I replied that in my opinion the correspondence in connection with the Mersina Railway showed that the eventuality of British financial support to the Konieh-Bagdad Railway was certainly contemplated as quite within the limits of possibility.

It was mentioned incidentally by Dr. von Mühlberg that the plan of making a railway, more in the centre north of Adana, had been for the present abandoned; that had been the original wish of the Sultan, but was more of a military than a commercial route.

The present tracing does not anywhere approach the sea, but Dr. von Mühlberg did not deny that a temporary railway to the sea for conveying material to the Konieh-Bagdad line might have to be built. Apart from this he could not conceive that the Konieh-Bagdad line passing Adana and forming a junction there with the Mersina Railway could in any way act prejudicially to the latter Company, to which it would presumably act as a remunerative feeder.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GOUGH.